



Annual Accessibility Report

For the Period September 2022 to August 2023

Rainy River District School Board

Submitted to:

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Rainy River District School Board

Prepared by:

Rainy River District School Board
Accessibility Committee

In accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*
Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation

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- Website (www.rrdsb.com >> OUR BOARD >> PUBLICATIONS)
- Education Centre
- Available in alternative formats upon request by contacting Human Resources

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1.0 Introduction

The Rainy River District School Board remains committed to supporting the objectives and meeting the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005*. The Board continues to meet all of its obligations outlined by the AODA and is committed to the continual improvement of access to school board facilities, policies, programs, practices and services for people with disabilities.

The purpose of the Annual Accessibility Report is to highlight the progress the Board has made during the 2022-2023 school year to identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who work, learn and participate in the School Board community and environment. This progress builds upon independence, dignity, integration and equity of opportunity of access for students, parents/guardians, volunteers, staff and the public.

2.0 Objectives

This report:

- 2.1** Provides a description of the Rainy River District School Board including its vision and commitment statements;
- 2.2** Outlines the composition of the Board's Accessibility Committee;
- 2.3** Describes recent efforts of the Board to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
- 2.4** Provides an annual status report on the Board's implementation of the multi-year accessibility plan and its process for review and monitoring; and
- 2.5** Describes how the Board will make this accessibility plan available to the public.

3.0 Description of the Rainy River District School Board

Mission:

Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream.

Vision:

The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today.

Commitment Statements:

At the Rainy River District School Board, we are committed to providing our students with the highest quality learning experiences, to support them as lifelong learners. Our knowledgeable and skillful staff work daily in support of student achievement and well-being. Our schools are welcoming, supportive learning environments for students and their families. There’s no better place for your child to learn, grow and succeed. In the Rainy River District School Board:

- We are committed to the well-being, safety and success of your children.
- We set high expectations for achievement. Our students consistently achieve academic and personal excellence.
- We offer a variety of programs of choice and extracurricular activities to meet the needs of every student and support creativity and innovation through technology to engage each student.
- Our schools are safe, welcoming, and inclusive.
- Our dedicated, caring staff help students achieve to their full potential.
- We welcome and value parent and community involvement.

Profile:

The Rainy River District School Board was formally established in 1998 following the amalgamation of the Atikokan Board of Education and the Fort Frances – Rainy River Board of Education. Mine Centre District School Board Authority amalgamated with the Rainy River District School Board on September 1, 2008.

The Rainy River District School Board serves 2542 students through three secondary and twelve elementary schools. Our schools are dedicated to lifelong learning by “believing, achieving, and dreaming” in an accessible learning environment. All students, regardless of special talents or challenging needs, can believe, achieve, and dream in accessible school community which offers accessible programs through accessible services.

4.0 Members of Accessibility Committee

Committee Member	Department	Contact Information
Alex Kozlowski	Human Resources	807-275-4981 alex.kozlowski@rrdsb.com
Kevin Knutsen	Human Resources	807-275-4980 kevin.knutsen@rrdsb.com

Carey Wolfe	Human Resources	807-275-5208 carey.wolfe@rrdsb.com
Travis Enge	Plant Operations & Maintenance	807-275-4983 travis.enge@rrdsb.com
Heather Bridgeman	Special Education Administrator and Vice Principal of School Support Services, SEAC Representative	807-274-9855 ext. 5015 heather.bridgeman@rrdsb.com
Heather Latter	Community Outreach	807-275-4989 heather.latter@rrdsb.com
Cindy Glavish	Information Technology Services	(807) 274-9855 x5401 cindy.glavish@rrdsb.com
Nikki Armstrong	Student Transportation Services	807-274-9855 ext. 5101 nikki.armstrong@rrdsb.com
Susan Badiuk	Finance/Purchasing	807-274-9855 ext. 5205 susan.badiuk@rrdsb.com
Marni McDonald	Executive Assistant, Office of the Director	807-274-9855 ext. 4982 marni.mcdonald@rrdsb.com

5.0 Barriers Removal Achievements in 2022-2023

The Rainy River District School Board intends, through this Annual Status Report for the period 2022-2023, to highlight the action taken to address barriers to accessibility related to the current areas of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation.

Type of Barrier	Location	Action	Effective Date
Physical/ Architectural	Northern Lakes K-12 School	Incorporate accessibility features into the renovation build of the new K-12 facilities. Make new or re-developed public spaces accessible.	Ongoing 2018-2023
Physical	Rainy River K-12	Incorporate accessibility features into the build of the new K-12 facilities. Make new or re-developed public spaces accessible.	Ongoing 2018-2024
Physical	Nestor Falls School	Efforts in progress for a new one level modular school, for greater accessibility. Starting design summer 2023. Estimate it will be ready for the 2023-24 School Year.	Ongoing 2021-2024
Physical	Sturgeon Creek School	Parking lot was patched over the summer (2022), making it more accessible. Two walkways replaced.	2022
Physical	Fort Frances High School	West entrances are being renovated.	Summer 2023
Information and Communication/ Technological	Communications Officer, Board-Wide	All school websites and the Board website continue to meet Level A	Ongoing

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		criteria of WCAG 2.0 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines).	
Information and Communication/ Technological	Communications Officer, IT Department, Board-wide	Review accessibility features of all updates and purchases related to board and school websites to meet WCAG, 2.0 Level AA standards (excluding live captions and audio descriptions).	Ongoing
Information and Communication/ Technological	Board-wide	Resources and training (virtual/on demand) sessions on how to create accessible documents and presentations are available for employees to access through Accessibility Services Canada. Resources and guides available on RRDSB Accessibility SharePoint page	2022-Ongoing
Information and Communication/ Technological	IT Department, Board-Wide	Availability of large-screen and touch-screen Chromebooks through special request for staff and students.	Ongoing
Systemic	Rainy River District Transportation Consortium Services	Provision of Education Assistants to ride school bus to support students. Arrangement of individual or small-group taxi transportation and parent-provided transportation for students unable to ride the school bus.	Ongoing
Attitudinal/Systemic	Human Resources Department	All job advertisements are produced in an accessible format and state that accommodation in the recruitment process is available upon request for applicants with disabilities.	Ongoing
Attitudinal/Systemic	Human Resources Department	Staff members with disabilities are provided medically supported workplace accommodations either on a temporary or permanent basis.	Ongoing
Attitudinal/Systemic	Human Resources Department	The Accessible & Healthy Workplace program provides information and support for staff, who may be dealing with a temporary or permanent disability, with information regarding available supports and programs designed to improve overall health and wellness.	Ongoing
Systemic/ Attitudinal	Board-wide	Review completion status of accessible customer service standard training to ensure new staff, volunteers, third party contractors/consultants, students/ interns, persons who participate in policy development, and any other members of our organization have been trained	Ongoing
Attitudinal/Systemic	Board-wide	Provide awareness and training for managers and principals. Implement	Ongoing

		psychological health & safety standard.	
Attitudinal/Systemic	Board-wide	Continue to promote a fragrance-free workplace via Health & Safety newsletter, posters, and staff meeting topics.	Ongoing
Information and Communication during COVID-19 Pandemic	IT Department, Board-wide	Individualized technology accommodations for students and staff to support distance education during school closures and in offering of remote learning.	2020-2022
Physical	Board-Wide	Washrooms to be gender neutral/open concept	Ongoing
Physical	Board-Wide	Installation of accessibility features as required based on need	Ongoing
Systemic	Board-Wide	Annual Status Update on Multi-Year Accessibility Plan	May 2023
Information and Communication	Board-Wide	Improve the School Year Calendar to ensure that it is legible for people with low vision or color deficiencies.	May 2023
Attitudinal/Systemic	Board-wide	Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2022-2027 finalized	December 2022
Systemic	Rainy River District Transportation Consortium Services	Procurement for additional accessible vehicles	2023-24 School Year/Ongoing
Physical	Fort Frances High School/ Board-wide	Procurement for new ramp for graduations, easier to assemble.	2023

6.0 Review and Monitoring Process

The Accessibility Committee will continue to work in partnership with the Rainy River District School Board and the community to review, revise and implement this Accessibility Plan. The Accessibility Committee meets regularly during the year to review progress and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of barrier-removal and prevention strategies and to plan for increased accessibility throughout the Board.

The Accessibility Planning Committee will ensure that in respect of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan the following steps take place:

- (a) An annual status report on the progress of the measures taken to implement the plan is prepared.
- (b) At least once every 5 years the plan is reviewed and updated in consultation with persons with disabilities, the Board’s Special Education Advisory Committee, the Accessibility Committee and other relevant committees.

7.0 Communication of the Annual Status Report and Multi-Year Plan

The Rainy River District School Board's Annual Status Report and the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be posted on the Board website at www.rrdsb.com and hard copies will be available at the Education Centre. The documents can be made available in alternative formats upon request.

Barrier identification is encouraged through the Accessibility Feedback form located in all of the Board's schools and at www.rrdsb.com. Contact information for Accessibility Feedback Form requests is Tracy Grennier, Executive Assistant, at (807) 275-4979 or tracy.grennier@rrdsb.com