



Policy Section: **Facilities and Equipment**

Policy Name: **Accessibility Standards for Design of Public Space**

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Policy Statement

The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have the same opportunity of access to public spaces as do all employees and prospective employees. The KPDSB is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities, in a timely manner, in the provision of services related to the design of public spaces.

Rationale

The KPDSB is committed to providing high-quality services to its students, parents/guardians of students, the public, and its staff that are free of barriers and biases. The KPDSB strives to ensure that key principles of independence, dignity, inclusion, and equality of opportunity are reflected and valued in its learning and working environments. KPDSB conduct will demonstrate its belief in the strength that diversity brings to its communities.

Definitions

“Accessible Formats” include but are not limited to large print, recorded audio and electronic formats, braille, and other formats usable by persons with disabilities.

“Environmental Mitigation” are activities that are intended to address any negative effects on the environment caused by the standard.

“Environmental Restoration” are activities that will benefit the environment.

“Exterior Paths of Travel” refers to sidewalks and walkways designed and constructed for pedestrian travel and are intended to provide a functional route from Point A to Point B rather than a recreational experience.

“Redeveloped” means a planned, significant alteration to a public space. It does not include maintenance activities, environmental mitigation, or environmental restoration.

Guidelines

1. **General Practices**

In accordance with the Integrated Accessibility Standards, Regulation 191/11 (IASR) this policy addresses the following:

- Outdoor Play Spaces;
- Exterior Paths of Travel;
- Off-Street Accessible Public Parking;
- Obtaining Services;
- Maintenance;
- Exceptions; and
- Review.

2. **Scope**

This policy is intended to meet the requirements of the IASR for the Design of Public Spaces Standard set forth under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA). This Policy applies to removing barriers in two (2) years:

- Buildings; and
- Public Spaces.

3. The KPDSB will establish, implement, maintain, and document a multi-year accessibility plan, outlining its strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet its requirements under the IASR. Accessibility plans will be made available in an accessible format, upon request, and will be posted to the KPDSB website.

The KPDSB will review and update its accessibility plan once every five (5) years. Annual status reports will be prepared that will report on the progress of the steps taken to implement the KPDSB's accessibility plan. This status report will be posted on the KPDSB website. If requested, the report shall be created in an accessible format.

4. **Training**

The KPDSB will provide training for its employees and volunteers regarding the IASR and the Ontario Human Rights Code as they pertain to individuals with disabilities. Training will also be provided to individuals who are responsible for developing the KPDSB's policies and all other persons who provide goods, services, or facilities on behalf of the KPDSB.

5. Outdoor Play Spaces

a) Consultation:

Prior to constructing or redeveloping an outdoor play space, the KPDSB shall consult on the needs of children and caregivers with disabilities with the public and persons with disabilities.

b) Accessibility in Design:

The KPDSB will ensure that any new or redesigned outdoor play spaces incorporate various accessibility features (i.e., sensory, active play components, etc.) into their design and are constructed in accordance with the requirements outlined in the IASR section 80.20.

6. Exterior Paths of Travel

To ensure the health and safety of all pedestrians, any newly constructed or redeveloped exterior paths of travel will meet, and where possible exceed, the technical requirements of the IASR section 80.23 and where applicable, sections 80.24 - 80.28.

7. Off-Street Accessible Public Parking

a) Types of Spaces and Accessible Aisles:

The KPDSB will ensure that any newly constructed or redeveloped off-street parking facilities provide the following two (2) types of parking spaces available for persons with disabilities:

- i) Type A – Parking space with a minimum width of 3.4 meters; and
- ii) Type B – Standard parking space with a minimum width of 2.4 meters.

Access Aisles will be provided for all accessible parking spaces and will meet the requirements of the IASR section 80.35.

b) Minimums:

The KPDSB will ensure that any newly constructed or redeveloped off-street parking facility meets, and where possible exceeds, the required number of accessible parking spaces based on the size of the lot. The number of accessible spaces will be aligned with the requirements specified in the IASR section 80.36.

c) Signage:

The KPDSB will ensure that proper signage is provided for each accessible parking space. Type A (above) parking spaces will have signage indicating van accessibility.

8. Obtaining Services

a) Service Counters:

When constructing or replacing any service counters, the KPDSB will ensure that at least one (1) counter is made accessible in accordance with the IASR section 80.41.

b) Fixed Queuing Guides:

When constructing new fixed queuing guides, the KPDSB will ensure that they are made accessible to people with various disabilities in accordance with the IASR section 80.42.

c) Waiting Areas:

When constructing or redeveloping an existing waiting area, the KPDSB will ensure that a minimum three percent (3%) of seating is made accessible. The KPDSB will ensure that there will be at least one (1) accessible seat in accordance with the IASR section 80.43.

9. Maintenance

The KPDSB will ensure that its multi-year accessibility plan addresses:

- Preventative and emergency maintenance procedures for the accessible elements in public spaces; and
- Procedures for temporary disruptions to accessible elements.

10. Exceptions

There may be times where it is not possible for the KPDSB to meet all technical requirements as outlined within legislation. In these instances, the KPDSB will strive to meet the requirements to the fullest extent to allow for accessible use with particular constraints as addressed in legislation.

11. Review

This Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is reflective of the KPDSB's current practices, as well as legislative requirements.