

## Service Dogs Board Policy

BP 403.20

**Department: Programs and Services** 

Section: Student Services

The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board is committed to ensuring it meets the educational needs of students served by the Board, including students with special needs. The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board is required to comply with legal requirements under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Blind Persons Act. The Blind Persons Act governs the rights of access for trained service dogs to accompany handlers in public places.

The Annapolis Valley Regional School Board supports students who have an identified need, and where they or their parents/guardians request permission to bring a service dog into the school. Service dogs are an accommodation in order to assist students in meeting their learning outcomes. In order to be approved for use in a school, service dogs must have documentation confirming graduation from a recognized training centre and detailed procedures must be followed regarding communication, access, handing and interactions between the service dog, students, and others in the school community.

Board Approved: May 2/12

**Ref:** AP 403.20

Monitoring Date: Annually

Revised: