

Superior-Greenstone District School Board

School Accommodation Study - Terms of Reference

Scope of this School Accommodation Study

The Accommodation Study will include the following schools:

Manitouwadge Public School
Manitouwadge High School

Accommodation Review Mandate

General Mandate:

An Accommodation Review Committee will endeavour to develop recommendations to the Board which support the goal of improving student achievement through the provision of strong educational programming in safe, healthy, secure, and accessible learning environments. In doing so, the ARC should have regard for alternatives which, where possible, provide long-term accommodation stability to students and the larger community, make effective use of District facilities, and improve student access to viable programming and appropriate instructional resources.

Study Mandate:

1. Program Viability
2. Utilization of Rates
3. Operating costs

Accommodation Review Committee Membership and Support

The ARC is to include membership drawn from the study area community. It is recommended that the committee include parents/guardians, educators, District officials and community members. Wherever possible representation is to include:

- two representatives for each school in the study area
- up to three additional members of the community
- representation on the ARC should provide equitable support for each school community

In the event that an issue regarding equitable representation on the ARC is raised, the Chair of the ARC has the authority to address the issue and recommend a solution. District staff will provide resource support to the ARC:

- Project Leader, the Superintendent of Facilities or a designate, will provide project oversight while representing the interests of the Board and District
- Administrative support for minute taking
- Dedicated resource staff to provide:
 - Information relevant to the mandate of the ARC as requested by the ARC
 - information relevant to the mandate of the ARC to support community questions or requests
- If the Project Leader sees a need for additional expertise or if additional expertise is requested by the ARC, guest ARC Resource Staff may be invited to attend specified meetings

ARC Procedures

The ARC will consult with the community through a minimum of four public meetings. Other means of communication are encouraged and may take the form of e-mails, feedback forms, voice mail, faxes, web-based notification, etc.

During the consultation period, the ARC must ensure that a wide range of school and community groups are consulted to seek input and community feedback on options for accommodating students who would be affected by a change in accommodation. These groups may include the school(s) councils, parents, guardians, students, teachers, the local community and any other interested parties.

Once an ARC has been established, there must be a minimum of 30 calendar days public notice provided prior to the first public meeting. Notices for the remaining three public meetings are to be publicized no later than 7 calendar days in advance of each of the public meetings.

Consultation will take place regarding the customized School Information Profile completed by District staff and revised as necessary by the ARC. The SIP may be further revised based on input received from the consultation.

The ARC will also seek input and feedback from the community about the accommodation options and the development of the ARC's Accommodation Study Report to the Board. Discussions will be based on the SIP and the ARC's TOR.

To prepare for the required minimum four public meetings, the ARC is expected to schedule working meetings and all meetings will be conducted in an open, transparent and professional manner.

At the first working meeting of the ARC, it is expected that a Chair of the ARC be appointed from amongst the group membership. The Chair is responsible for:

- Managing the delivery of the project according to the ARC mandate, the Terms of Reference and the supporting School Information Profile.
- Coordination of the activities of the ARC, requesting support, resources, and information relevant to the ARC's mandate from District staff.
- Ensuring completion of the ARC's Accommodation Study Report to the Board.

Recognizing the value of the ARC's contribution to the District's ability to provide quality educational opportunities for its students, ARC members must be prepared to make a commitment to attend the majority of working meetings and public meetings.

In the event that an ARC member is unable to commit to attending all or the majority of meetings, the Chair of the ARC has the authority to address the attendance issue and recommend a solution.

Voting Structure of the ARC

All sitting members of the ARC, excluding ARC resource support, are voting members of the ARC. For greater certainty, Resource Support including the Project Leader are nonvoting members who have the ability to contribute to the ARC discussion as a means of informing the ARC.

The ARC is encouraged to work on a consensus basis. Where a consensus cannot be reached, a simple majority of those voting members in attendance will rule (50 percent plus 1).

Partnership Opportunities

District staff will inform the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC), at the beginning of the process, about partnership opportunities, or lack thereof, as identified as part of the long-term planning process. These opportunities should take into account possible partnerships with other school boards and appropriate public organizations that are financially sustainable, safe for students, and protect the core values and objectives of the District.

Reference Criteria

The ARC is to examine the school or group of schools under review from the perspective of the following criteria as the criteria relates to the existing situation – both physical and pedagogical at the school or group of schools to better understand the rationale for the accommodation review.

The ARC is also to examine the school or group of schools under review from the perspective of the following criteria as it considers the impact of accommodation options that would improve the school experience for the students in the school or group of schools under review.

- the presence of low school enrolments (which may limit a student's educational and social opportunity);
- the presence of low program enrolments (which may impact the delivery and provision of a fulsome educational program);
- issues of student accessibility to programs (which may require the creation of a new program, the relocation of an existing program or the revision of an existing attendance area);
- significant changes to Board and/or Ministerial policy related to student program delivery;
- the absence of sufficient instructional space within a school or a group of schools (which may impact a student's access to programming and physical resources e.g., gym/library allocation);
- the presence of a significantly large amount of surplus instructional space within a school or a group of schools (which impacts the District's use of limited financial resources);
- issues related to the physical condition of a school or a group of schools (which may impact the provision of a safe and healthy learning student environment and may unduly impact the equitable distribution of District resources).

Accommodation Options

The ARC may develop alternative accommodation options consistent with the study mandate, list of schools, and Reference Criteria contained in the Terms of Reference and approved by Board.

Approval of the Board is required should the ARC wish to develop alternative accommodation options not consistent with the approved study mandate or desire the inclusion of a school (s) not listed in the approved Terms of Reference.

ARC Resource Staff will provide the necessary data to enable the ARC to examine the options proposed. This is necessary in order to assist the ARC in finalizing the Accommodation Study Report to the Board.

Where the ARC recommends accommodation options that include new capital investment, the ARC Project Leader or Designate will advise the ARC on the availability of funding. Where no capital funding exists, the ARC will propose how students would be accommodated if funding does not become available.

Accommodation Study Report

The Accommodation Study Report which is a mandatory outcome of the ARC's work is to be submitted to the Board by the Chair of the ARC.

The Accommodation Study Report is to contain accommodation recommendation(s) consistent with the study mandate and the reference criteria in the TOR.

In the development of the Accommodation Study Report, the ARC is encouraged to consider the following factors supported by data contained in the SIP and local community knowledge:

1. Value to the Student

- The learning environment at the school;
- Student outcomes at the school;
- Course and program offerings;
- Extracurricular activities and extent of student participation;
- The ability of the school's physical space to support student learning;
- The ability of the school's grounds to support healthy physical activity and extra-curricular activities;
- Accessibility of the school for students with disabilities;
- Safety of the school;
- Proximity of the school to students/length of bus ride to school.

2. Value to the School Board

- Student outcomes at the school;
- Course and program offerings;
- Availability of specialized teaching spaces;
- Condition and location of school;
- Value of the school if it is the only school within the community;
- Fiscal and operational factors (e.g., enrolment vs. available space, cost to operate the school, cost of transportation, availability of surplus space in adjacent schools, cost to upgrade the facility so that it can meet student learning objectives).

3. Value to the Community

- Facility for community use;
- Program offerings at the school that serve both students and community members (e.g., adult ESL);
- School grounds as green space and/or available for recreational use;
- School as a partner in other government initiatives in the community;
- Value of the school if it is the only school within the community.

4. Value to the Local Economy

- School as a local employer;
- Availability of cooperative education;
- Availability of training opportunities or partnerships with business;
- Attracts or retains families in the community;
- Value of the school if it is the only school within the community.

Meetings

The goal of the working meetings is to ensure that information is prepared for presentation at each of the minimum four public meetings. The materials prepared will be relevant to the study mandate and the reference criteria of this TOR. The materials prepared will support the ARC's development of its Accommodation Study Report.

The ARC Project Leader and ARC Resource staff will work with the ARC to prepare all working meeting and Public Meeting agenda and materials. Meeting agenda and materials are to be available by e-mail to the ARC members in advance of scheduled meetings and will be posted on the District's website.

Resource staff will ensure that accurate minutes are recorded. These minutes are to reflect the discussions that take place and decisions that are made at working meetings and at Public Meetings. ARC meeting minutes will be posted to the District's website.

Requests for information relevant to the ARC's study mandate and terms of reference will be provided by ARC Resource staff in a timely manner. The ARC will approve any requests for information received from an external party. The ARC acknowledges that it may not always be possible to obtain responses to requests for information in time for the next scheduled meeting. If this occurs, ARC Resource staff will provide an estimated availability time.

All information provided to the ARC is to be posted on the District's website and made available in hard copy if requested.

The purpose of the minimum four ARC Public Meetings is to consult about:

- The School Information Profile
- Accommodation Options developed or supported by the ARC that address the needs of the students in the schools under review
- The development of the ARC's Accommodation Study Report to the Board
- The Accommodation Study Report will contain the ARC's accommodation recommendations consistent with the study mandate and the reference criteria outlined in the TOR.