Appendix A

AI Enabled and Embodied Technology

Technology and Generative Artificial Intelligence continues to shift quickly, including AI enabled devices and embodied AI tools.

Applying DDSB policies and procedures that consider safety, privacy, security, and human rights needs will support consistent decision-making and help us maintain an inclusive and equitable learning environment.

The following guidance is provided specific to:

- Considerations: Staff Request for Use of AI Enabled Eyewear
- Considerations: Student Request for Use of AI Enabled Eyewear
- AI Embodied Companions

AI Enabled Eyewear

The use of wearable AI technology during the workday is governed by existing policies regarding Safe and Respectful Workplace, Privacy, and Technology Approval. AI-enabled devices capable of recording or live broadcasting without clear visual indicators may pose significant privacy and confidentiality risks to students and staff. The use of recording or broadcasting functions in private spaces, such as washrooms and change rooms, is strictly prohibited.

In most circumstances, the wearing of AI-enabled glasses by staff or students is not permitted. Subject to case-by-case consideration where use may be permitted with approval, decision-making regarding these devices must be grounded in the Human Rights Policy, Safe and Respectful Workplace Policy, the mandatory Technology Approval Process (TAP), and embedded consultation processes.

Staff Use of AI Enabled Eyewear

Key Considerations

- Mandatory Technology Approval (TAP): Staff may not unilaterally introduce hardware into the workplace. Any device used for instructional purposes or attached to Board resources must undergo the Technology Approval Process to be vetted for privacy, data security (MFIPPA and PHIPA compliance), and health and safety.
- Privacy and Confidentiality: Staff have a legal duty to protect the personal information of others. "Passive" data collection by worn devices violates the "Need to Know" and "Least Privilege" principles, as these devices capture information (voices and likenesses) that is not required for the performance of professional duties.
- Expectation of Professionalism: Staff are expected to be role models and maintain a positive learning and working environments. Devices that are not part of an approved lesson or administrative project are considered disruptive and may interfere with the personal dignity and privacy of others.

- Consider Accommodation Needs: If a staff member requires AI-enabled eyewear due to a disability, the Board has a legal duty to accommodate. These requests must be directed through Abilities Management to develop a formal, individualized accommodation plan that balances the employee's needs with the privacy rights of the school community.
- Address Unauthorized Use: Unless a staff member has a formally approved Human Rights Accommodation or the device has been officially vetted and distributed through the TAP, wearing them on DDSB property is a violation of current Board policies.
- Privacy Advocacy: Remind staff that when using Board networks or working in Board environments, there is no expectation of privacy for the user; however, the Board maintains a duty to secure the workplace against private recording devices that compromise the privacy of others.
- Consultation Prior to Action: Ensure that prior to moving forward with any workplace accommodation or pedagogical pilot involving AI eyewear, you have consulted with the Superintendent for People and Culture or Innovative Learning, IT Services (for TAP), and the Abilities Management team.

Student Use of AI Enabled Eye Wear

Initially communicated to school leaders on February 10, 2026

As wearable AI technology becomes more accessible, you may encounter students using AI-enabled eyewear. Decision making on their use needs to consider Ministry direction/PPMs and DDSB's policies and procedures (for example, Code of Conduct), and a number of factors/key principles such as human rights accommodation, privacy, instructional integrity, IT security and technology approval considerations.

These devices should be treated as Personal Mobile Devices and their (digital) use in the classroom managed the way we would treat cell phones and other mobile devices like smart watches under PPM 128: *"Wearables such as smart watches must be put into the equivalent of 'airplane mode' during the school* day." PPM 128 - Personal Mobile Devices in Schools email on Sept 3, 2024 (sent to staff and families). Under the DDSB Code of Conduct, exceptions are permitted for authorized health and medical purposes, to support special education needs, as part of an approved accommodation plan or health and safety plan, or for other Human Rights Code-related needs or circumstances.

AI-enabled frames may be considered for an approved accommodation need (for example, when fitted with prescription lenses), meaning a student cannot simply "put them away" without losing their primary vision support. In these instances, leaders should work with the student and their family to determine if the student is able to access typical eyewear when at school, or to ensure the electronic and recording features are powered off, while still allowing the student to wear the frames for sight. This balance respects the student's needs while upholding the school's privacy and instructional standards.

The following guidance is designed to support maintaining an inclusive and accessible learning environment that also upholds privacy, safety, and instructional integrity.

Key Considerations

- Privacy & Safety: These devices can record and broadcast audio/video. Unauthorized recording on school grounds is strictly prohibited, with a zero-tolerance approach in private spaces like washrooms and change rooms Instructional Integrity: AI enabled glasses must be powered off and not worn during class time (unless they are the primary vision support, or a school/board approved accommodation for other needs for that student), similar to smartphones.
- Liability: The Board is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of these high-value items.
- Consider Accommodation Needs: Proactively consider students who might genuinely benefit from AI eyewear. In addition, before pursuing discipline for device use, consider if the student may have an unmet need or a disability that requires accommodation. Consult and apply human rights accommodation principles and DDSB policies and procedures to assess accommodation needs and explore options and solutions. Protecting the privacy rights of everyone in the learning space is a significant factor when considering options and determining an appropriate accommodation. It is important that a fulsome consultation is undertaken with your System Lead for navigation.
- Model Digital Citizenship: Frame the conversation around Responsible Digital Citizenship. Use instances of misuse as opportunities for Bias-Aware Progressive Discipline, focusing on corrective learning rather than punitive measures.
- Consultation Prior to Action: Ensure that prior to moving forward with the full and powered-on use of AI eyewear, you have consulted with the appropriate System Lead(s).

AI Enabled Eyewear – Guests on DDSB Property

Unless decided through an accommodation consultation, AI enabled devises are not approved for use by guests on district property, or in attendance at board events.

AI Embodied Companions

AI Enabled Companions are specifically engineered to foster mimicking of interpersonal relationships with users. Unlike standard utility chatbots, they utilize data memory and adaptive digital personas to continuously adjust to user preferences and interactions over time to create a personalized sense of connection.

Both the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) standards and Ministry of Education PPM 163 Student Use of Service Animals in Schools recognize that service animals are living, certified working animals performing specific disability-related tasks, rather than pets or standard companion animals. Reference is also made to DDSB policy and procedure for the Use of Service Animals in Schools.
At this time, AI Enabled Companions are not considered for use in DDSB learning or working environments.