

MESSAGE FOR TEACHERS, SCHOOL STAFF, AND LEADERS

On March 15th, 2021, Manitoba announced significant changes to our education system. ***Better Education Starts Today: Putting Students First*** has been developed in response to the K-12 Commission's recommendations on Kindergarten to Grade 12 education, as well as to the learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vision is for **Manitoba students to succeed, no matter where they live, their background, or their individual circumstances.** This strategy outlines our government's commitment to building an education system that works for students, teachers, and parents.

Our plan is based on four pillars:



Governance and Accountability for Results: Build a consistent and aligned provincial education system that is accountable for results and engages parents.



High-Quality Learning and Outcomes: Improve learning and outcomes for all students across the province.



Future-Ready Students: Engage students and build competencies for lifelong success.



Excellence in Teaching and Leadership: Ensure teachers, school staff, and leaders have the knowledge, skills, and tools to focus on what students need to learn, and to implement that in the classroom.

Improving student achievement is at the heart of these changes, but equally important is ensuring that resources are targeted to where there is the most need. To that end, all savings resulting from reducing top-heavy administration—estimated at \$40 million—will be shifted to the classroom.

What does this mean for your classroom?

Our priority is to maintain stability in the classroom for students, parents, teachers, and the broader school community while we work towards building an improved education system. There will be no immediate changes in everyday school life. Policies for school catchment and schools of choice remain the same. Over time, the goal is to move decision making closer to students by strengthening the role schools play in the overall system, giving parents more voice, and shifting more resources to the classroom where they are needed most.

To learn more about our plans and priority actions and to read the full **Better Education Starts Today** strategy, please visit bettereducationmb.ca.

How will these changes affect you?

The changes will not occur immediately. The changes to the governance structure will be implemented by July 1, 2022, with the Provincial Education Authority being established as early as November 2021.

Once established, the Provincial Education Authority will become the employer for all public schools with the exception of employees in the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) and the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology. Even after this change, collective agreements will be followed and all future changes will be in compliance with your agreement. The Transformation Team, along with employers, will work with all impacted unions throughout this process.

We want you to feel supported in your work throughout the transition process and we will communicate often.

Here are some of the key changes:

All Grades

- ✓ Establishing School Community Councils in every public school with a focus on improving student achievement and well-being, and encouraging all parents and caregivers to be members, reflecting the diversity of the school. Schools in the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine will maintain their existing school committees.
- ✓ Providing parents with more information about their children's achievement and well-being, including a new provincial report card for students with special needs.
- ✓ Creating a Minister's Advisory Council on Inclusive Education to ensure timely assessment, learning supports, and clinical services for students with special learning needs and enhanced classroom supports for teachers.

- ✓ Implementing an Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools Initiative to support student and teacher learning of Indigenous languages and cultures and to ensure greater focus on closing the gap in Indigenous student achievement.
- ✓ Establishing better communication with parents and caregivers on what their children are expected to learn and know.
- ✓ Putting a stronger focus on improving literacy and numeracy, and making curriculum enhancements in science, mental health, and physical/health education.

Early and Middle Years

- ✓ Implementing new tools to assess student readiness to learn as they enter Kindergarten or Manitoba schools for the first time.
- ✓ Creating new provincial tests and assessments for Early and Middle Years students.
- ✓ More timely assessment and interventions for students with special learning needs.

High School

- ✓ Moving provincial math and language arts exams from Grade 12 to Grade 10.
- ✓ Expanding technical-vocational programs based on workforce needs.
- ✓ Providing more opportunities for developing science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) skills through experiential and workplace technical-vocational learning experiences, especially for girls, Indigenous students, and Francophone students.
- ✓ Establishing new credits and micro-credential programs for successful transitions from high school to post-secondary and/or to work experience and the labour market, including a focus on digital literacy and digital learning.
- ✓ Expanding remote learning, including establishing a new provincial online high school.
- ✓ Creating a Provincial Student Advisory Council to capture the voices of our youth and to help inform the system of what they need to succeed.

How can you get involved?

Teachers, school staff, and leaders will play a critical role in informing the path forward. Details on consultation topics and opportunities to participate will be shared as part of our regular updates.

Here are some ways to stay informed:

- ✓ A website has been set up for regular updates. Please check back often. www.bettereducationmb.ca
- ✓ Connect with your employer. While answers may not be known immediately, it is important to bring your questions forward. If you have questions, others certainly will too. These questions will help to inform our communication and decision making.
- ✓ To reach out to the Education Transformation Team, please email edutransformation@gov.mb.ca.

Thank you for all of your contributions to the consultations and for working to improve the education system in Manitoba—both during these challenging times in COVID-19 and into the future as we chart our path forward.