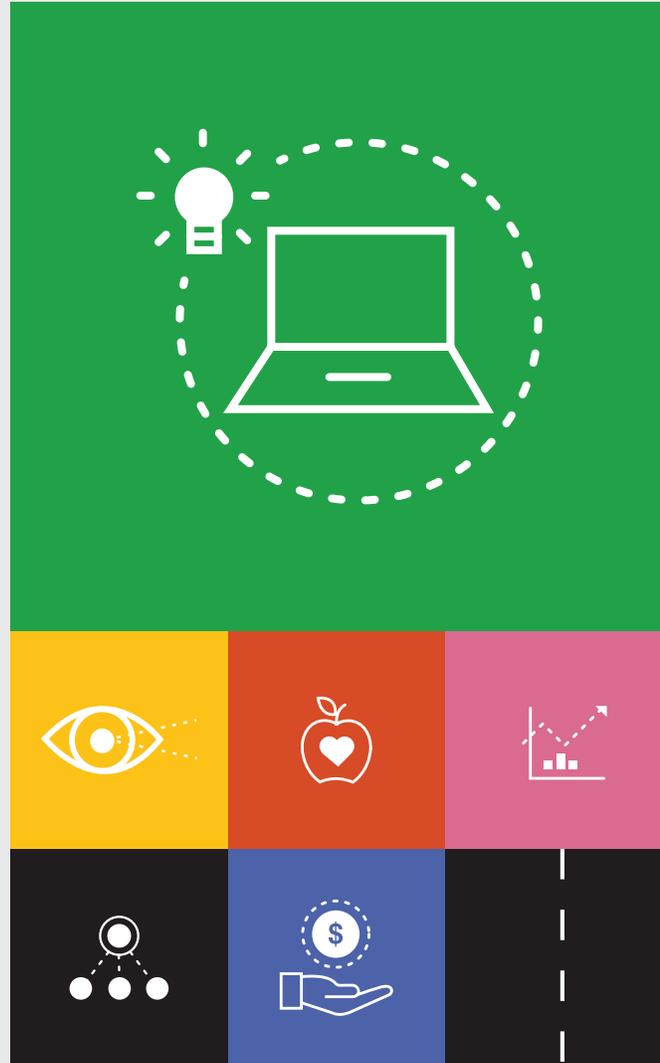


# Manitoba's Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

Review of Manitoba's Education System

**Discussion Paper Summary**

April 2019



## What we're doing

For the first time in decades, we are conducting a full review of Manitoba's K to 12 education system. Since then, Manitoba and the world have seen major changes, and our education system needs to be modernized to reflect these changes.

## Why we're doing it

Manitoba students and their families deserve excellence in education. A strong education can set students up for success – in the workforce, in post-secondary education, and in life in general.

The goal of this review is to find the best solutions for Manitoba's education system to ensure our students can succeed in today's global community no matter what path they choose.

## How you can get involved

We want your help to shape the future of the education system in Manitoba.

There are several ways you can participate in the discussion:

- Complete an online survey to provide input on education issues that are important to you; there is one survey available for the general public and one specifically for teachers at:  
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html>
- Email, fax or mail a written submission to the commission; this submission should follow the guidelines available online at:  
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/submissions.html>
- Attend an interactive public meeting to engage in conversation around the review's six areas of focus in an informal atmosphere that encourages open discussion and community dialogue; find information about locations and dates at: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html> or call 204-945-4135 or toll free at 877-491-2657
- Submit a formal brief to the commission by email, fax or mail; all briefs will be considered to be a request to present at a public hearing and will be posted on the commission's website:
  - Briefs must follow the template available online at: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html>
  - Only one brief per individual or organization will be accepted
  - Selected groups will be invited to present to the commission

The commission will also be scheduling meetings with specific stakeholder groups, including the most important group – students. We will hold at least one full-day student engagement forum and will consider reaching out to schedule additional consultations.

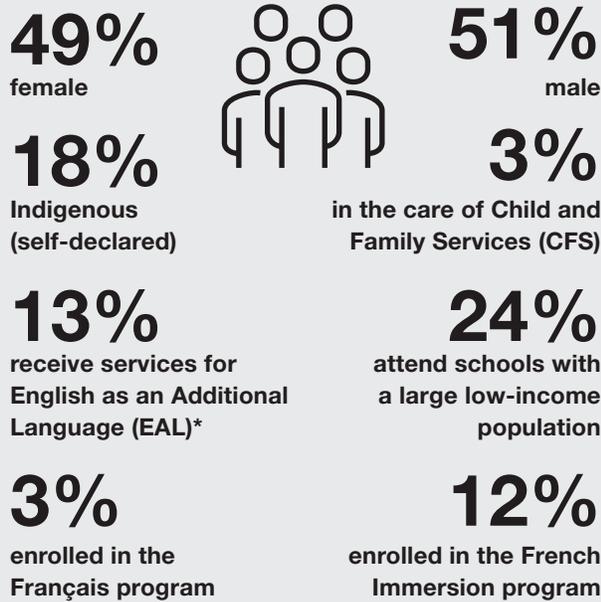
The commission will also consider requests for meetings and may accommodate as time and scheduling permit.

# The current state of Manitoba's education system

## Our students

Manitoba's K to 12 student population is very diverse, with dozens of languages spoken by students in our schools.

Here's a snapshot of our students and their diverse needs:



\*Public schools only

## Our schools

Education is compulsory for children in Manitoba from age 7 to 18. Students may attend public or independent schools.



### Public schools

- 90% of student population (188,744 students)\*
- 669 public schools
- Governed by *The Public Schools Act* and *The Education Administration Act* and their regulations
- The rights and responsibilities of minister, school boards, principals, teachers, parents, and students are described in the legislation
- Elected school boards are responsible for delivering education

\*Enrolment as at September 30, 2018



### Independent schools

- 10% of student population (20,052 students)\*
- These may include religion-based, private, Montessori, colony and community schools



### Funded independent schools

- 7% (14,474 students)\*
- 62 schools
- Use provincial curriculum, employ Manitoba certified teachers, and must meet provincial requirements

### Non-funded independent schools

- 1% (1,870 students)\*
- 49 schools
- Do not need to meet provincial requirements, but must deliver an education equivalent to that of a public school

### Homeschooling

- 2% (3,708 students)\*
- Parents choose to be responsible for their child's education and obtain resources and materials for the program of study

\*Enrolment as at September 30, 2018



### French language education

- The Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) delivers French as a first language programming (the Français program)
- French Immersion program is offered by 23 school divisions

# Focus Areas of the Review

The review will concentrate on six areas of focus. We are looking for your input on any and all of these areas. Each focus area is introduced by a few questions, followed by some general information to get you thinking about the topics and prepare you to join the conversation.

## Focus area 1: Long-term vision

What should the goals and purpose of K to 12 education be in a rapidly changing world?  
What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current system?  
What are the most important things for students to gain from their K to 12 education?  
What could our system do better to help students achieve these important goals?

This focus area supports the overall goal of the review: to find the best solutions for Manitoba's education system to ensure our students can succeed in today's global community.

**Around 50%**   
of early - and middle-years students meet provincial expectations in reading and writing

**90% of students**  
pass Grade 9 math and language courses, but only 40% achieve a grade of at least 80%



**Nearly 80%**  
of students graduate high school on time, but fewer than 50% of Indigenous students graduate within 4 years of beginning Grade 9



## Focus area 2: Student learning

What are the conditions required to achieve excellence in student achievement and outcomes in Manitoba?  
Who is ultimately responsible for student success?

During the past 15 years, Manitoba students have not kept pace with students in other provinces and internationally. The review aims to find ways to improve student success and achievement.

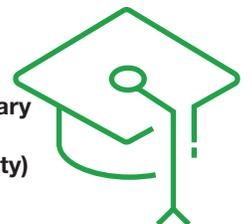


**Fewer than 40%**  
of early - and middle-years students meet provincial expectations in math

**14%** of Manitobans aged 25 to 64 have less than a high school education

**28%** have high school completion as their highest level of education

**58%** have post-secondary education (trades, college or university)

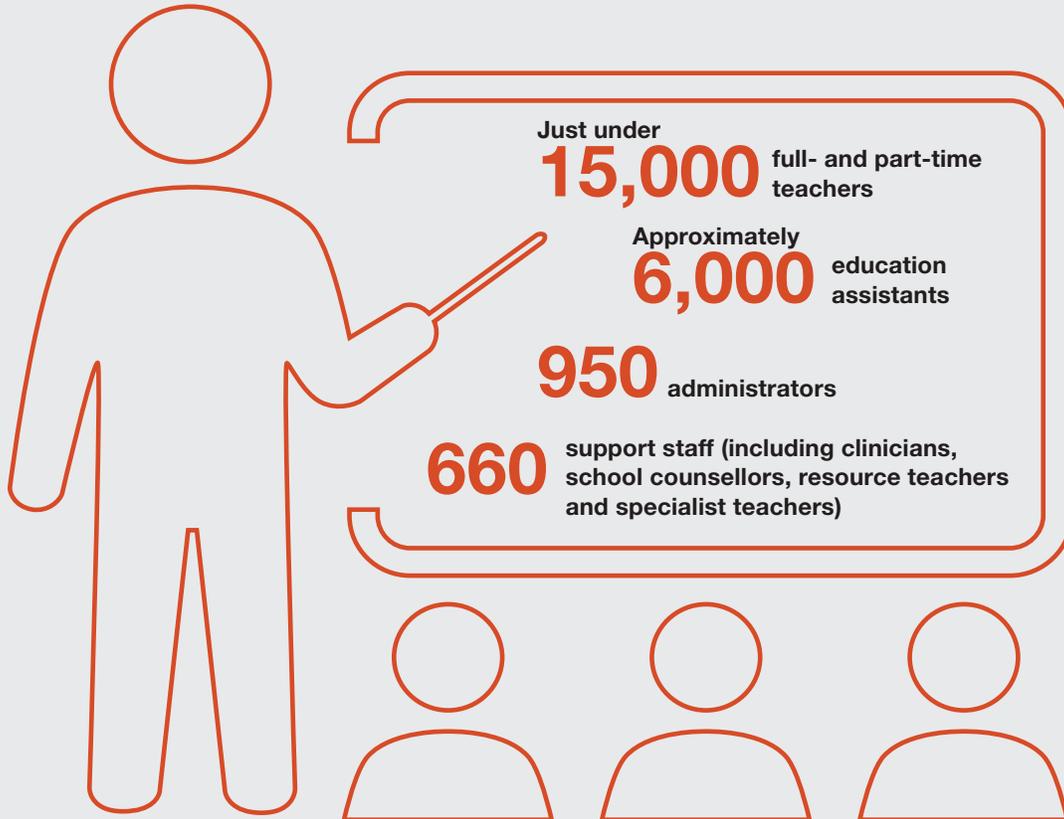




### Focus area 3: Teaching

How can we help teachers and school leaders become most effective?  
What improvements could teachers make to better help students achieve their goals?

Across the province, over 22,000 individuals support our students in their educational journey. Teachers and school leaders have the biggest impact on student learning, and their success is key to the success of their students.



Teachers who are trained and educated in Manitoba either complete:

- a) an undergraduate degree and two-year after-degree Bachelor of Education
- b) an integrated program where the undergraduate degree and education degree are completed at the same time

Programs are usually organized by early/middle- or senior-years streams.

To work in a public school or funded independent school, teachers in Manitoba need:

- A valid Manitoba teaching certificate

Once certified, teachers may be hired and assigned by their employer, either a school board (public school) or the funded independent school. The employer is responsible for assessing teacher performance and providing professional learning opportunities.

There are 10 non-instructional days per school year:

- At least 5 are used for teacher professional development
- The rest are used for teacher in-service, parent-teacher conferences, administration and student evaluation

## Focus area 4: Accountability for student learning

How can the education system develop a stronger sense of shared accountability for student learning? Is the current system providing equitable learning outcomes for all students?

When parents send their children to school, they want professionals to use their knowledge, skills and expertise to help all students learn, achieve and reach their potential. Schools have the primary role in



enabling student learning, achievement and well-being. Others play a role in supporting the education system as well. For example, research shows that when parents read to their children it makes a difference in their literacy levels. However, the skills, availability and time parents have will vary and this is not always possible.

As much as possible, when everyone who has a role to play does their part, students are more likely to succeed.

Students have a right to:	Students have a responsibility to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ An education</li> <li>■ Regular testing and evaluation of their academic performance</li> <li>■ See their school records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Attend school and classes regularly and punctually</li> <li>■ Comply with student discipline policies and the school's code of conduct</li> <li>■ Complete assignments and related work</li> <li>■ Treat school property and the property of others at the school with respect</li> </ul>

What needs to be done?	Who's responsible?
Teaching diligently and faithfully	Teachers
Ongoing assessment of student learning	Teachers
Assessment and promotion of students in the school	Principals
Preparing new teachers with knowledge and skills	Faculties of education
Certifying teachers	Manitoba Training and Education
Approving provincial curriculum	Minister
Releasing information relating to student achievement and effectiveness of programs	Minister
Hiring and assigning teachers	School board
Providing professional learning to teachers	School board

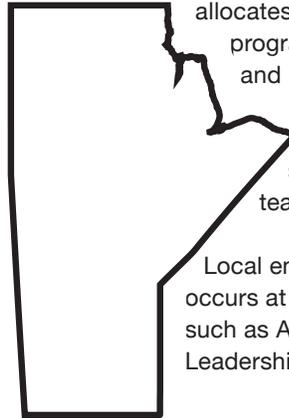
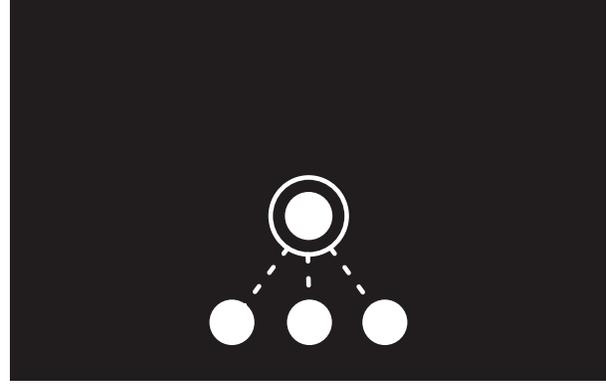


## Focus area 5: Governance

What type of governance structures are needed to create a coordinated and relevant education system? Should there be changes to how schools, school divisions, school boards and the Department of Education and Training are organized? If so, what changes are needed? Should there be any changes to who does what and how decisions are made? If so, what changes?

Currently, Manitoba has:

- 37 public school boards
- 5 to 11 trustees per board
- 297 total trustees
- 110 superintendents, assistant superintendents and directors



The government provides direction and allocates resources in support of K to 12 programming. *The Public Schools Act* and *The Education Administration Act* outline the rights and responsibilities of the minister, school boards, principals, teachers, parents and students.

Local engagement in education also occurs at the school level through groups such as Advisory Councils for School Leadership and Parent Councils.

## Focus area 6: Funding

What actions are required to ensure that the education system is sustainable and provides equitable learning opportunities for all children and youth? Is the education system currently properly funded and sustainable?

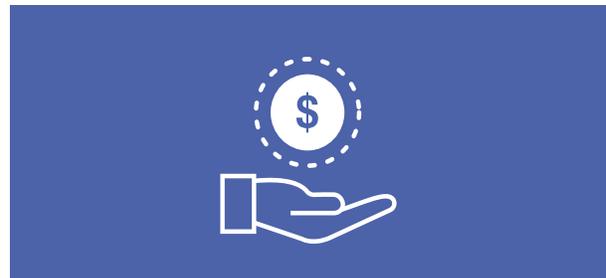
The provincial government and school boards share the responsibility for funding K to 12 education. Financial accountability and sustainability are essential to improving our education system.

**In 2019-20, the province is investing:**

**\$1.329 billion**  
in public school divisions

**\$1.4 billion**  
in k to 12 education

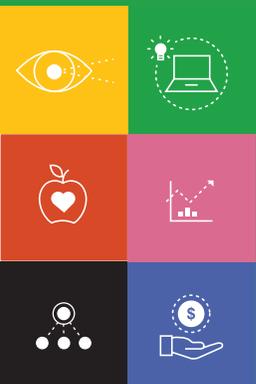
**\$80 million**  
in funded independent schools



The total operating costs for the public school system in 2018-19 exceeds \$2.4 billion. These costs are covered by a combination of provincial grants and education property taxes.

In public and funded independent schools, with the exception of Alberta, Manitoba spends more per student than other provinces. Despite regular increases in funding, the overall system is not producing the desired levels of student achievements and outcomes.

While this review will not include technical details about funding models, local taxation, teacher compensation, teacher pension and benefits, we welcome your input about the direction you think the province should move in to ensure money allocation to support education is best spent.



**Manitoba's Commission on  
Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education**

**Secretariat**

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**Commission manitobaine sur l'éducation  
de la maternelle à la 12e année**

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