Note to Users

This Manual of Policies and Beliefs is divided into three parts: Foundation Statements, Consolidated Policies, and Current Resolutions. The Foundation Statements are the association’s Vision, Mission, Mandate, Beliefs, Values, and Brand. The Consolidated Policies are statements of principle that have been adopted by the membership of the Manitoba School Boards Association. The Current Resolutions section contains resolutions (other than Consolidated Policies) that have been adopted or reaffirmed by the membership within the past five years.

This manual is updated on an annual basis, following the association’s Annual General Meeting.
Table of Contents

Part 1: Foundation Statements .................................................................................................................. 2

Part 2: Policy Statements

Principles of Public Education .................................................................................................................. 3
School Boards and Trustees ....................................................................................................................... 4
Finance ....................................................................................................................................................... 5
Education Programming ............................................................................................................................. 9
Students ..................................................................................................................................................... 10
Employee Relations ................................................................................................................................. 11
Transportation ........................................................................................................................................... 11
Facilities and Materials ............................................................................................................................. 13
External Organizations .............................................................................................................................. 13

Part 3: Current Resolutions

School Boards and Trustees ....................................................................................................................... 14
Finance ....................................................................................................................................................... 15
Students ..................................................................................................................................................... 23
Employee Relations ................................................................................................................................. 24
Facilities and Materials ............................................................................................................................. 26
External Organizations .............................................................................................................................. 26
Part 1: Foundation Statements

Vision

A respected and influential voice for public education in Manitoba
A valued and effective advocate for local education governance

Mission

The mission of the Manitoba School Boards Association is to enhance the work of locally elected school boards through leadership, advocacy and service, and to champion the cause of public education for all students in Manitoba.

Mandate

1. To promote and support the work of elected public school boards within the parameters of Manitoba laws and statutes.
2. To promote and advance the cause of public education in the province through research, study and public discourse.
3. To work collaboratively with education partners, stakeholders, and community agencies in addressing the learning and developmental needs of school-aged children and youth.

Beliefs

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes…..

THAT the public school system is a cornerstone of a free and democratic society and the collective responsibility of all citizens;

THAT community voice and local control are essential features of a quality public education system;

THAT the public school system in Manitoba should provide equity of opportunity for all students irrespective of geographic location or community wealth; and

THAT elected school boards must have the legal authority, the financial flexibility and the local autonomy to reflect the education needs and priorities of their respective communities.

Values

The Manitoba School Boards Association is committed to excellence in programs and services for member school boards;

The Manitoba School Boards Association respects the authority and autonomy of locally elected school boards;

The Manitoba School Boards Association values openness and transparency in its relationship with association members, education partners, stakeholder organizations and the general public; and

The Manitoba School Boards Association values collaboration, partnership and teamwork in the pursuit of organizational goals.

Brand

Leadership, advocacy and service for Manitoba’s public school boards

Adopted March 2006
Reaffirmed March 2011
Part 2: Policy Statements

Principles of Public Education

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the purpose of public schooling is to provide for the development of all children, so that each may take a meaningful place in society. The Manitoba School Boards Association has identified the following principles as key to the fulfilment of that purpose.

- The public school system provides quality programming that respects the intrinsic value of the individual and focuses on the development of each child.

- Public school programming reflects a contemporary view of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are of most worth to the individual and to society.

- Public schools reflect the character, cultural heritage, and democratic institutions of the communities they serve.

- The public school system demonstrates respect and support for fundamental human rights as identified in Canadian and provincial legislation.

- Public schooling is a responsibility shared among the school, the family, and the community.
School Boards and Trustees

Authority

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that locally elected school boards are essential to ensuring community voice in public education, and that to be effective in this regard, they require the authority to make local decisions within broad parameters established by provincial legislation. This authority, which resides with the corporate board and not individual trustees, includes the ability to:

- access revenue beyond that which is provided by the provincial government for education purposes, through mechanisms such as the local special levy on property;
- manage financial, capital and human resources in an effective and efficient manner;
- determine and modify as necessary the school division’s own internal operating structures; and
- adapt or develop curricula and establish academic requirements or standards that reflect community needs or values.

Responsibility

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the exercise of authority brings with it responsibility. In this light, school boards have a responsibility to:

- abide by all relevant laws by which they are bound, while retaining the right to try to influence the legislative process, or advocate for changes to existing laws;
- conduct school board business in an open and transparent manner, limiting the use of in-camera deliberations for those matters requiring confidentiality;
- preserve to the greatest extent possible the integrity of the school board and the office of school trustee through the development and enforcement of a strong school trustee code of conduct; and
- keep the best interest of students at the forefront of all deliberations.
Finance

**Principles**

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that a quality public education system which supports student learning and high levels of achievement for all students requires on-going investment through a funding model that is equitable, flexible and sustainable. The association therefore endorses the following principles regarding a renewed funding structure for Manitoba public schools.

- The provincial general revenue contribution to public K-12 education approximate 80% of total annual school operating costs excluding Government expenditures for teacher pension plan contributions, major capital construction costs and education property tax credit programs;

- The balance of required financial support be raised by elected school boards through the education property tax levy in local communities;

- Provincial funding for schools come primarily in the form of block or per pupil grants rather than categorical grants, to provide school divisions with the maximum flexibility in allocating resources;

- The provincial government provide the necessary resources to ensure successful implementation and sustainability of new or expanded provincial requirements for the delivery of school-based services or programs;

- Relevant provincial departments (i.e. health, child and family services, immigration and labour, justice) provide financial support for the delivery of non-educational services to children when that delivery takes place within a school setting; and

- The purchase of supplies and services required within the public school system be exempt from consumption taxes levied by federal, provincial, or municipal levels of government.

- The education funding formula should contain sufficient equalization measures to ensure equity of opportunity for students and fairness for taxpayers in divisions with low assessment bases.

- That affordable, high-speed, high-capacity broadband access be provided for all Manitoba students regardless of where they attend school within Manitoba.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that all requirements, limitations, restrictions or conditions to which school budgets will be subjected should be clearly communicated no later than the time of the annual Provincial funding announcement.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that annual increases in education funding should more closely reflect actual operating cost increases.
Taxation Issues

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that:

- no change should be made regarding the inclusion of commercial assessment in the local tax base without the provincial government first thoroughly reviewing the matter and determining the effect on individual school divisions of sharing commercial assessment.

- the City of Winnipeg should close the assessment roll at the latest date permissible by law (December 31 of the previous calendar year) for purposes of calculating the annual Special Levy Mill Rate.

- properties in un-assessed territories should be subject to education property taxation.

- divisions should be exempt from paying property taxes or municipal special services levies on any and all property which is registered in the name of the school division.

- all taxes identified as education taxes should be remitted to school boards to fund Manitoba public schools.

Funding Formula—General

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial Education Ministry should begin distributing operational support to school divisions at the start of each new fiscal year.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that students under the age of 21 who have met the requirements for high school graduation should be eligible for funding from the province for an additional one year of study, with no additional cost to the home division in the way of residual or transfer fees.

Funding Formula—Specifics

Curriculum

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the province should fund fully costs associated with the introduction of new provincial curricula and learning initiatives, including the costs of materials, equipment and facilities, and professional development for teachers and school administrators.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that increased support is required for technical-vocational education, and that students across the province should have equal access to high level technical-vocational programming and facilities.
Facilities

Procedures

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that:

Public Schools Finance Board funding should be based on a formula that reflects the current construction costs as determined by the tendering process, and which ensures a timely and proactive approach to school renewal.

The Public Schools Finance Board approval process should take into consideration the need to undertake work at times when students and staff are not in the building, so as to minimize health and safety risks to the occupants.

The Public Schools Finance Boards should be required to keep school boards informed, year over year, of the status of divisional funding requests.

Grant Structure

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that:

the capital support formula for major renovations of existing facilities should include provisions for program areas such as computer labs and technology centres, multi-purpose, band and art rooms, lunch rooms, and clinician offices, and that such provisions be included when calculating school capacities.

full support should be provided to all Manitoba school divisions to renovate buildings in order to permit access to all schools for physically disabled persons.

the costs of upgrading temporary classrooms should be the responsibility of the Public Schools Finance Board, and that specific funds should be allocated for that purpose.

the Public Schools Finance Board should provide school divisions with reimbursement of interest costs for all capital support debentured projects.

the Public Schools Finance Board should support costs associated with linking portable classrooms to school buildings.

Special Education

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government has a responsibility to provide the necessary funding and create appropriate mechanisms for the distribution of that funding to ensure that special needs students have full access to the education to which they are entitled.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial Education Ministry should provide funding to enable development of enriched programs for gifted students.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Education Ministry should provide appropriate funding to enable schools to meet the special needs of immigrant and refugee students.
Technology

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that

the provincial government should take a leadership role in ensuring that the infrastructure is in place, and that school divisions have the necessary resources, to enable schools to access and utilize current and relevant technologies (including broadband Internet access) to support and enhance student learning.

the provincial government should assist school divisions in the disposal electronic waste.

Equity

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the education funding formula should include appropriate mechanisms to ensure equity of opportunity for all students, reflecting the increased costs often associated with program and service delivery in rural and northern regions of the province.

Miscellaneous

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Community School Initiative should be supported sufficiently so as to remove financial barriers that may prevent some school divisions from designating some schools community schools.

Interorganizational and Inter-Departmental Financial Responsibilities

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that provincial and federal authorities should clarify jurisdictional responsibilities and financial obligations for the education of First Nations students residing both on and off-reserve.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial Education and Child and Family Services Ministries should develop joint tracking and funding mechanisms to address more adequately the social and learning needs of children in care Manitoba public schools.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that community police services should be available to schools, to help ensure safe environments in schools and communities.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that school boards require assistance from the provincial government and community agencies to address the needs of immigrant and refugee students and their families.

Private Schools

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the requirements which apply to Manitoba public schools for reporting of financial and educational operations should apply equally to funded independent schools.

Miscellaneous

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Northern Remoteness Allowance should be adjusted yearly to reflect the corresponding increase in the provincial budget.
Education Programming

Public schools provide all children with the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge that enable them to develop their personal interests, explore and master new areas of inquiry, and build stronger futures for themselves and their communities. In order to fulfill this mandate, public schools must:

- maintain an instructional focus on the core subjects which remain integral to student success, including numeracy and literacy.
- offer a dynamic curriculum that recognizes emerging knowledge and learning needs.
- make available high-quality technical, vocational and career programming, and to the extent possible, ensure such offerings align with post-secondary requirements in technical and vocational fields of study.
- include curricular components that will enable young people to better fulfill their current and future roles as contributing family and community members, and as citizens of democratic societies.
- enable such course and delivery modifications as are necessary to ensure that all students, regardless of ability or special needs, geographic location, cultural or linguistic background, or other relevant factor, can benefit from the full range of educational offerings.
- conduct regular, meaningful assessments of student progress towards stated learning goals, with the results of such assessments being used to direct improvements to teaching and learning for both individual students and the student body as a whole.
- align instructional time and human/financial resource allocation with curricular requirements and priorities.
Students

Public schools not only provide academic courses of study for students; they also share in the family and community responsibility for nurturing the whole child, and for helping each one grow into a healthy, happy and contributing member of society. To that end, public schools must:

- recognize the critical importance of the early years for children’s healthy development and learning, and support inter-agency cooperation and collaboration to meet the needs of young children and their families.

- cooperate with organizations having child or youth-focused mandates, including those working with pre-school or young adult populations.

- mitigate the negative impacts of poverty on students, and ensure that equitable educational opportunities are available to all children and youth, regardless of socio-economic status.

- work with other levels of government to promote a “students-first” philosophy that consistently places the needs of children and youth ahead of financial or legal considerations associated with residency, guardianship, jurisdictional boundaries, or similar matters.

- understand the significant roles good physical and mental health, emotional intelligence and empathy play in overall student well-being and achievement, and support or develop programs and initiatives designed to have a positive impact in these areas.

- respect, reflect and celebrate the cultural diversity of Manitoba’s citizens and communities in philosophy and programming.
Employee Relations

Collective Bargaining and Arbitration

The Manitoba School Boards Association supports collective bargaining at the local level between individual school boards and their respective teacher associations.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the collective bargaining process between school boards and teacher associations should utilize the following dispute resolution steps: conciliation, compulsory mediation, and strike/lockout.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that legislation should be enacted to provide that all teachers and school boards have the opportunity to vote on the other group’s final offer prior to application for an interest arbitration.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that:

- an arbitrator should be required to consider school board and community economic constraints when awarding a settlement.
- where management responsibilities are not excluded from arbitration, strike/lockout should be the dispute resolution mechanism in collective bargaining between school boards and teacher associations.
- the provincial Education Ministry should cover costs directly attributed to an arbitration board decision which includes class size/composition, or legislative/regulatory changes that mandate class size/composition.

Teacher and Clinician Supply

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that:

- provincial certification requirements should not preclude the hiring of school clinicians in Manitoba from other Canadian jurisdictions.
**Staff Professional Development**

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that, prior to re-entering the classroom, teachers who have been out of the teaching profession for five or more years should be required to complete a minimum of 60 approved contact hours of professional development on topics related to classroom instruction.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial Education Ministry should provide the human resources necessary to ensure adequate professional development or training for classroom teachers and/or educational assistants in areas such as changing curricula and the delivery of specialized health-care services required by individual students.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the scheduling of professional development days must be sensitive to divisional and school operational requirements.

**Employees—Miscellaneous**

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that should a professional organization be created for teachers in Manitoba, it should be functionally and structurally separate from the union which represents teachers in collective bargaining and contract matters.

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that school boards should assess regularly the performance of their superintendents in accordance with a defined set of agreed-to principles and criteria.
Transportation

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that student safety is a key priority for public schools, and that concerns for safety extend to the transportation and movement of students to and from school. In order to maximize student safety, it is imperative that:

- school buses be outfitted with equipment and systems that are known to enhance safety;
- all students be educated on safe school bus ridership;
- appropriate accommodations be made in school zones to ensure the safety of students travelling to and from school (such as reduced speed zones and designated school bus loading/unloading zones);
- traffic laws relating to school buses (such as passing a stopped and signaling bus) be vigorously enforced; and
- regular public education campaigns be undertaken to ensure community members are aware of these laws, and the consequences for violating them.

Facilities and Materials

The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that appropriate school facilities and material resources are essential components of a strong public education system, and as such, must be available to all students and staff, in all areas of the province. Specifically:

- infrastructure such as high-speed Internet must be in place in all Manitoba schools, to enable students to participate fully in curricular offerings;
- new schools must be built, and existing schools retrofitted as required, to ensure accessibility and to meet the needs of students and other persons with disabilities;
- school boards must be involved in the planning of new residential developments to help ensure appropriate accommodations are made for public schools; and
- land required for new school sites must be made available to school divisions at a reasonable cost.

External Organizations

Educational Partners

The Manitoba School Boards Association supports school-level advisory committees or parent councils, and encourages their greater participation and collaboration in educational issues.
Part 3: Current Resolutions

School Boards and Trustees

DUTIES OF SCHOOL BOARDS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the government of Manitoba should take the necessary steps to enable school boards to fulfill their duty as outlined in section 41(1)(p) of The Public Schools Act, namely that “Every school board shall determine the number, kind, grade and description of schools to be established and maintained.” SB-01-15(R)10

MORATORIUM ON SCHOOL CLOSURES: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should remove the moratorium on school closures. SB-02-15(R)10

SCHOOL CLOSURE GUIDELINES: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should provide reasonable, manageable and accountable school closure guidelines. SB-03-15(R)10

CRIMINAL RECORDS AND CHILD ABUSE REGISTRY CHECKS: The Manitoba School Boards Association employees, prospective employees and volunteers of school divisions must be able to obtain criminal record and child abuse registry checks in a timely manner. (SB-01-15)
Finance

Principles

EDUCATION FUNDING AND SCHOOL FINANCE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that a quality public education system which supports student learning and high levels of achievement for all students requires on-going investment through a funding model that is equitable, flexible and sustainable. The Manitoba School Boards Association therefore endorses the following principles regarding a renewed funding structure for Manitoba public schools.

The provincial general revenue contribution to public K-12 education approximate 80% of total annual school operating costs excluding Government expenditures for teacher pension plan contributions, major capital construction costs and education property tax credit programs;

The balance of required financial support be raised by elected school boards through the education property tax levy in local communities;

Provincial funding for schools come primarily in the form of block or per pupil grants rather than categorical grants, to provide school divisions with the maximum flexibility in allocating resources;

The provincial government provide the necessary resources to ensure successful implementation and sustainability of new or expanded provincial requirements for the delivery of school-based services or programs;

Relevant provincial departments (i.e. health, child and family services, immigration and labour, justice) provide financial support for the delivery of non-educational services to children when that delivery takes place within a school setting; and

The purchase of supplies and services required within the public school system be exempt from consumption taxes levied by federal, provincial, or municipal levels of government.

The education funding formula should contain sufficient equalization measures to ensure equity of opportunity for students and fairness for taxpayers in divisions with low assessment bases.

That affordable, high-speed, high-capacity broadband access be provided for all Manitoba students regardless of where they attend school within Manitoba.

That the City of Winnipeg and all municipalities forward all taxes collected as school taxes to all school divisions. EF-01-13(R)08; amended by EF-13-12 and EF-04-16

FUNDING SUPPORT CRITERIA: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that Manitoba Education should communicate clearly all requirements, limitations, restrictions or conditions that school boards will be subject to in their annual budget process no later than the time of the annual Provincial funding announcement. SB-03-13(R)08
EDUCATION FUNDING: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that education support from provincial general revenues should be increased to 80% of school division operational costs, thereby limiting reliance on property taxation levied by school boards to fund not more than 20% of total divisional operating expenditures. EF-01-13(R)03

**Taxation Issues**

SHARING OF COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should thoroughly review and consult with divisions regarding the effects on individual school divisions and their property taxpayers from the sharing of commercial assessment before implementing or proceeding with any changes in this regard. EF-08-12(R)02

PROVINCIAL SALES TAX RECOVERY: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Education Ministry should provide a grant to cover the cost of the Provincial Sales Tax paid by school divisions or alternatively, Manitoba Finance exempt school divisions from payment of Provincial Sales Tax. EF-05-12(R)07

CLOSING DATE, RE ASSESSMENT ROLL: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the City of Winnipeg should adopt the practice of closing the assessment roll at the latest legal date permissible by law (December 31 of the previous calendar year) for purposes of calculating the annual Special Levy Mill Rate. EF-13-12(R)02

TAXPAYER EQUITY, re: PROPERTY TAXATION: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that all residential and commercial properties throughout the province, including those in un-assessed territories, should be subject to the education property taxation component of Manitoba’s education finance structure. EF-04-16(R)06

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION ON SCHOOL PROPERTY: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that The Municipal Assessment Act Section 22(1)(d) should be amended by deleting “to a maximum exemption of 4.047 hectares”, such that all real property used for a public school within the meaning of The Public Schools Act is exempt from property taxation other than local improvements. EF-12-12(R)07

MUNICIPAL SPECIAL SERVICES LEVIES: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that public school properties should be exempt from municipal Special Services Levies. EF-01-13

EDUCATION TAXES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that all taxes identified as education taxes are remitted to school boards to fund Manitoba public schools. EF-01-14

OPERATIONAL ADVANCES: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the distribution of support provided through Operational Advances should begin in July of each fiscal year. EF-03-14

**Funding Formula—General**

FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL SECONDARY CREDITS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that full funding should be restored for all students who are under 21 years of age for one year beyond attainment of high school graduation requirements at no additional cost to the home division in the way of residual or transfer fees. EF-10-12(R)00
FULL DAY/EVERY DAY KINDERGARTEN: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Government of Manitoba should fund full day/every day Kindergarten for those school divisions who choose to offer the program. EF-04-12

NEED FOR FISCAL FLEXIBILITY: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that annual funding support to school divisions should be provided primarily in the form of basic or block rather than categorical funding, thus ensuring as much flexibility as possible for school boards in the management of available funds to meet local needs. EF-01-12(R)07

BILL 13 – PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS ACT: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should provide the necessary funding to meet the Provincial mandated program under Bill 13 for students to attend school to the age of eighteen (18) years. EF-03-12

FUNDING FOR NON-ADJUSTABLE COSTS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should review and revise the current funding model to reflect that certain infrastructure, transportation and administration costs are not adjustable and need to be calculated outside of the population based model. EF-08-12

CLASS SIZE INITIATIVE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should fully fund capital and operating costs associated with its maximum class size initiative for Kindergarten to Grade 3 classrooms. EF-07-12

FUNDING FOR 20K3 INITIATIVE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should provide full and sustainable funding for all capital, human resources and incremental costs incurred by school divisions to implement and to sustain the 20K3 maximum class size initiative. EF-02-13

FUNDING FOR ADULT LEARNING CENTERS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that a consistent and transparent funding formula for Adult Learning Centers should be developed to enhance education and benefit both adult learners and students who utilize the campus as an alternate environment. EF-02-14

SUPPORT FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMMING: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the province should provide resources to fund pre-kindergarten initiatives such as nursery school, and that pre-kindergarten programming should fall under the mandate of the education department. ((EF-01-15)

REVISED FUNDING FORMULA: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the education funding formula should be revised to make it less complex, more transparent and more easily understood. (EF-02-15)

FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBILITY PLANS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Province of Manitoba must provide adequate funding to school divisions for the implementation of accessibility plans, in compliance with The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA). EF-05-16

Funding Formula—Specifics
Curriculum

TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Education Ministry should provide increased support to Technical Vocational education in the province and ensure equity of opportunity for student access to Technical Vocational programming and facilities across the province. EF-14-12(R)07

SENIOR YEARS APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that Manitoba Education should provide new funding to support school divisions’ staffing needs for the implementation of the Senior Years Apprenticeship option. EF-06-14(R)09

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that Aboriginal languages should be recognized and treated as founding languages, with the standing and funding befitting of Canada’s official languages. (EF-03-15)

FUNDING FOR ABORIGINAL/INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that necessary financial, curricular and other resources must be available to enable school divisions to offer a level of programming in Aboriginal/Indigenous languages that is commensurate with their status as founding languages in Canada. EF-03-16

Facilities

Procedures

NEW SCHOOL SPACE CONSTRUCTION: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should take the steps necessary to lessen the time between when the need for new school space is agreed upon and when actual construction begins. EF-05-13(R)08

CAPITAL SUPPORT PROGRAM: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Government of Manitoba should strengthen the Capital Support Program for public schools through the provision of additional resources to reflect actual construction costs for projects and to ensure a timely and proactive approach to school facilities renewal. EF-02-12(R)06

PSFB RESPOND TO CAPITAL PLANS SUBMITTED: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Minister of Education should require the Public Schools Finance Board (PSFB) to respond formally to the five-year capital plans submitted by school divisions. FM-02-13

PUBLIC SCHOOLS FINANCE BOARD OPERATIONS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should provide sufficient and sustainable funding to the Public Schools Finance Board (PSFB) in order to address current and emerging issues related to:

- increasing enrolments/overcrowding
- 20K3 Initiative
- Early, Middle, Senior years configurations EX-01-13

PHYSICAL SPACES OF EARLY YEARS CLASSROOMS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that province of Manitoba and the Public Schools Finance Board should maintain the current standard of 860 square feet of classroom space for all grade 1 to 3 classrooms regardless of enrolment numbers. SI-01-12
APPROVAL AND FUNDING OF ACCESSIBILITY PROJECTS IN SCHOOLS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the province of Manitoba should expedite the process for approval and funding of accessibility projects related to specific student needs. FM-03-13

CALCULATING CLASSROOM CAPACITY: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the formula for calculating classroom capacity should be revised in order to ensure larger classroom spaces appropriate to meet the multiple and diverse learning needs of all students. FM-01-14

NEW SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that necessary infrastructure like roads and crosswalks should be included in the planning and financing of new school construction. FM-02-14

SUPPORT FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND ADDITIONS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that funding for the construction of new schools and additions to existing schools should be increased so that funding properly reflects the needs of communities at the time that those needs arise, and that the level of funding support provided should better reflect the true costs to school divisions to construct, commission, and open new facilities. (EF-04-15)

BUILDING OF NEW SCHOOLS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that decisions regarding the building of new schools should be made on the basis of the needs of students and recent and projected student enrolment growth. FM-01-15

**Grant Structure**

CAPITAL SUPPORT FOR MAJOR SCHOOL RENOVATIONS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the capital support formula for major renovations of existing facilities should be reviewed by the Public Schools Finance Board and when considering renovations to school facilities, provisions be made to accommodate such program areas as computer labs and technology centres, multi-purpose, band and art rooms, lunch room facilities, and clinician offices, and that such provisions be included when calculating school capacities. EF-06-13(R)97

BUILDING CODE UPGRADES-TEMPORARY UNITS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the costs of upgrading temporary classrooms at any time should be the responsibility of the Public Schools Finance Board, and that specific funds be allocated for said purpose. EF-06-12(R)96

REIMBURSEMENT OF INTEREST COSTS, re: CAPITAL SUPPORT PROJECTS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Public Schools Finance Board should provide school divisions with reimbursement of interest costs for all capital support debentured projects. EF-11-12(R)00

NEW SCHOOL SPACE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should take the steps necessary to alleviate the need for “unlinked portables” and ensure that new school space be developed to represent the actual needs of growing communities. EF-04-14(R)09

SITE COORDINATOR – PSFB: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that Manitoba Education should provide additional support for a Site Coordinator to supervise day to day operations of PSFB approved building projects. SB-01-14(R)09
INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should provide financial support for infrastructure improvements within the divisions to achieve sustainability and environmental objectives. FM-01-13

CHILDCARE CENTRE CONSTRUCTION: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that Manitoba Education should initiate a program of constructing daycare facilities on school property in order to eliminate or avoid space shortages for Kindergarten to Grade 12 programming; AND FURTHER that the government of Manitoba, through its Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Department, should provide the staff and services in each of the facilities. FM-04-13

Special Education

CATEGORICAL GRANTS FOR L2 AND L3: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that funding for L2 and L3 level special needs students should remain as a categorical grant. SI-07-13(R)97

TRANSFER OF L2 OR L3 STUDENT FUNDING: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that students who have been assessed as Level 2 or 3 should be allowed to carry their funding to other divisions should they transfer within the province, and further that the receiving school division and the province accept the documentation from the sending school so that reassessment and reapplication be eliminated. SI-06-13(R)97

ACCESSIBILITY: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Education Ministry should devise a planned, staged process for retrofitting schools to provide grooming rooms and access for persons with disabilities. EF-16-12(R)07 (See also Facilities and Materials)

PROGRAM FUNDING FOR ENRICHED OR GIFTED STUDENTS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that provision should be made in the Government Support for Education funding formula for a separate grant to enable development of programs for enriched or gifted students within the divisions. SI-05-13(R)97

STUDENTS EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should create an additional identification category for those students who are exceeding expectations on Provincial Assessments. SI-03-14

NEWCOMER SUPPORTS FOR SCHOOLS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the government should provide additional new funding for school divisions to support the extensive needs of immigrant students and families in Manitoba. EF-02-13(R)11

OCCUPATIONAL/PHYSIOTHERAPY HEALTH SERVICES: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the province of Manitoba should fund the cost of occupational/physiotherapy health services for school aged children. EF-02-12

STUDENT SERVICES GRANT: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should increase the funding for the Student Services Grant to fully support the programming needs of all students that meet the criteria for Level 1 funding. EF-05-12

FUNDING FOR LEVEL 2 AND LEVEL 3: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Provincial Government should increase the funding for level 2 and level 3 categorical grants to help support the costs of maintaining appropriate supports for students. EF-06-12
LEVEL II AND LEVEL III FUNDING: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the government of Manitoba should review the current system of low incidence (Level II and Level III) special needs funding with a view to streamlining the application process and providing school divisions maximum flexibility in allotting funds. SI-02-13

LEVEL II AND III FUNDED STUDENTS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the qualifying criteria for Level II and III funded students should include all diagnoses listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). SI-02-14

Technology

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR INTERNET ACCESS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the government should act on the various existing studies, proposals and initiatives to encourage industry, (particularly those industries subject to public utility boards and reviews) to provide infrastructure assistance so that all schools have broadband internet access at an affordable cost. EF-07-12(R)06

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS COMPUTER HARDWARE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should initiate and fund a program for the disposal of electronic waste for Manitoba school divisions. EF-04-07

VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should provide and support the necessary connectivity to enable video conferencing in rural divisions. EF-05-14(R)09

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DELIVERY IN RURAL AND NORTHERN REGIONS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should provide the connectivity required for educational program delivery in rural and Northern regions of the province. SI-01-13(R)10 (See also Facilities and Materials)

CONNECTIVITY FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial and federal governments should provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure high quality, high speed connectivity to serve the learning needs of 21st century students in Manitoba regardless of where they may live in the province. EF-12-12

Miscellaneous

COMMUNITY SCHOOL INITIATIVE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Education Ministry should provide increased support for the Community School Initiative to ensure any school has the opportunity to become a community school should the division so choose. EF-09-12(R)07

HEALTHY SCHOOLS GRANT: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Healthy Schools Grant should be increased to reflect the increasing and comprehensive school needs of our diverse populations in the health promoting areas of nutrition, active living, mental health, and safe and welcoming environments. EF-01-16

FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should provide targeted funding directly to school divisions to strengthen mental health supports in schools. EF-02-16
Interorganizational and Inter-Departmental Responsibilities

SUPPORTS FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should provide the necessary financial resources required to address more adequately, the immigrant and settlement challenges in Manitoba school communities. EF-03-12(R)07

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that adequate support from community police officers is necessary to help ensure safe environments in both our schools and our communities in all schools in Manitoba, and that federal, provincial and municipal authorities should help facilitate that support. SB-03-12(R)07 (See also Students and Instruction—Student Health and Welfare)

PAYMENT OF TUITION FEES: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Department of Education should work with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to lobby the Federal Government to ensure the development of a systematic and regular payment of tuition fees to public school boards by First Nations, without undue hardship to First Nations. EF-10-12

FUNDING FOR FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Province of Manitoba should lobby the Federal Government to ensure equitable, stable and secure funding for First Nations schools in order to improve the quality of education and success rate for First Nations students. EF-11-12

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION FUNDING: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the federal government should renew negotiations with First Nations to establish a robust education funding policy for First Nations education that will allow First Nations students to access programs and services comparable to those enjoyed by students in provincial public schools. SI-03-15

Private Schools

PRIVATE SCHOOL FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that all independent (private) schools in Manitoba should be required to make annual public reports regarding their financial and educational operations as required of Manitoba's public schools; and

THAT the Department of Education be required to include Independent Schools in Manitoba's FRAME report. EF-15-12(R)97

Reporting

ADMINISTRATION CAP FOR SMALL SCHOOL DIVISIONS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government to should increase the administration cap for smaller divisions. EF-03-16(R)11
Students

INTER-PROVINCIAL EXCHANGE OF PUPIL INFORMATION: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that Manitoba’s Minister of Education should initiate a dialogue at the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) table to facilitate the efficient inter-provincial exchange of pupil information (i.e. cumulative files, special education information) for the appropriate placement of students arriving in any jurisdiction from out of province. SI-01-16(R)11
Employee Relations

Collective Bargaining and Arbitration

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: The Manitoba School Boards Association supports collective bargaining at the local level between individual school boards and their respective teacher associations. ER-02-15(R)04

VOTE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that legislation should be enacted to provide that all of the teachers within a school division or district would have the opportunity to vote upon whether to accept or reject a school board's offer prior to the application for an interest arbitration. ER-04-12(R)84

BARGAINING PROCESS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that legislation should be enacted to provide that the school board vote upon whether to accept or reject the teachers' proposal prior to the application for an interest arbitration. ER-03-12(R)84

ARBITRATION-BOARD’S ABILITY TO PAY: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the single arbitrator (arbitration board) should be charged with a statutory obligation to consider prevailing financial and/or economic constraints applicable to school divisions, taxpayers and businesses when awarding settlement. ER-02-12(R)96

GOVERNMENT TO COVER CLASS SIZE/COMPOSITION COSTS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Education Ministry should cover any and all costs directly attributed to limitations on class size and/or composition that result from either the decision of an arbitration board or changes to provincial legislation/regulation. ER-05-12(R)07

DISPUTE RESOLUTION/TEACHER BARGAINING: Where legislative changes are not enacted to exclude management responsibilities from the arbitration process, strike/lockout be use as the dispute resolution mechanism in collective bargaining between school boards and teacher associations. ER-01-12(R)02

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING STRUCTURE: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that changes should be made to the collective bargaining process between school boards and teacher associations to provide for compulsory, non-binding mediation and removal of the arbitration process under The Public Schools Act. ER-01-15(R)05

TWO-TIERED PROVINCE-WIDE BARGAINING: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that it should work collaboratively with the provincial government to review the current collective bargaining dispute resolution mechanism [binding arbitration]. ER-01-11

Teacher and Clinician Supply

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Education and Health Ministries should work to address the issue of the lack of child psychologists and psychiatrists available for consultation on mental health issues and treatment within the education system for school aged Manitobans, as well as the cost associated with obtaining the services of such mental health care providers. SI-01-12(R)07
**Staff Professional Development**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS RE-ENTERING THE PROFESSION: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the regulations in *The Education Administration Act* should be amended so that before re-entry into the profession, teachers who have been out of the teaching profession for five (5) or more years, be required to complete a minimum of 60 approved contact hours of professional development on topics related to classroom instruction at the cost of the teacher. SI-02-12(R)94

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the Minister of Education should expand upon existing curriculum leadership personnel at the regional level in order to ensure adequate professional development for classroom teachers in the area of changing curricula. SI-07-12(R)00

COMMON NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that the provincial government should monitor the impacts of its new policy direction regarding common non-instructional days in school divisions in the 2011-2012 school year with a view to revisions of the policy if difficulties and challenges are identified by school divisions. SB-01-11

TEACHING OF ABORIGINAL HISTORY IN CANADA: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that Manitoba Education should ensure ongoing investment in the provision and enhancement of professional development opportunities for all practicing Manitoba teachers with regard to aboriginal history in our province and country and the ongoing contributions of indigenous peoples to the development of Canada. SI-02-12

**Employees—Miscellaneous**

TEACHING PROFESSION ACT: The Manitoba School Boards Association supports the following principles with respect to a Teaching Profession Act:

1. that the Act cover all professional educators who are certified to teach in Manitoba;
2. that the professional organization be a functionally and structurally separate entity from the Manitoba Teachers' Society;
3. that the governing body of the professional organization be elected from the membership at large;
4. that a general meeting for the professional organization be held annually;
5. that the principle of accountability to the local authority and ultimate accountability to the Minister of Education be retained. ER-01-13(R)86
Facilities and Materials

NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT: The Manitoba School Boards Association believes that *The Planning Act*: Subsection 135(6) should be amended to require applicants dedicate at least 10% of the land being subdivided for school purposes, and that Section 136(1) should be applied only with the concurrence of the affected school board. SB-04-15(R)10

External Organizations

*Educational Partners*

SCHOOL-LEVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEES: The Manitoba School Boards Association supports the establishment of school-level advisory committees or parent councils, and encourages greater participation and collaboration in educational issues. SB-04-07(R)94