



**Manitoba Association of
School Business Officials**



June 18, 2021

Hon. Cliff Cullen
Minister of Education
Room 162 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Re: June 10 Governance Transformation Data Requests

Dear Minister Cullen:

On behalf of our respective membership, we are seeking an opportunity to cooperate with the Department of Education in meeting the above noted request that was received by all school divisions.

As you may be aware, the end of June timeframe presents an extraordinary period during which many divisions remain focused on year end requirements. The ongoing need for capacity to be invested in pandemic related response during this present year poses additional considerations. Ability to attend to submission of information varies across each division but has been particularly challenged by these twin dynamics. The impact of the June 10 data request therefore falls unevenly across divisions according to timing, staff availability, and school safety.

Some divisions therefore remain constrained in following up by the intended deadline, even while other divisions are in fact in position to move forward. Some divisions intend to finalize the request prior to summer to address staffing realities in July and August, while others maintain full staffing to address the request during the summer and would be in a position to satisfy the request according to staff availability. There are divisions that have access to required datasets that allow for short term response on a portion of the request, while other requirements necessitate greater investment of time and analysis to ensure all information being collected aligns with the stated intentions of the request.

The bottom line is that all divisions do intend to follow through on this request but it would be desirable for greater flexibility in the timeframe provided for doing so. June 24 will not prove feasible for some of our members.

We are therefore advocating that the deadline for the data request be extended, while being cognizant of the need to ensure this data remains timely and expedient to inform development of the transformation initiative's Human Resources strategy— a deliverable that was initially envisioned by the Department (on March 15 during the first stakeholders' presentation) for a May delivery milestone, and has now subsequently been amended on two occasions by the Department to the summer, and now to the fall of 2021.

There are select members who are in a position to meet the full scope of the request by June 24. These divisions will proceed to submit their data by June 24. This present letter makes no specific request to delay submission by those divisions of their data. For those who can submit partial datasets, or who require a prolonged allowance for production of the full datasets, we are formally seeking a case by case extension according to the unique and distinctive operational dynamics that allow for this request to be successfully submitted. This would allow for a needs-based approach that takes the conditions of each division into consideration.

We appreciate the mechanisms established by the Transformation Unit to provide daily support and assistance in terms of advising and counselling divisions on the data framework— our members have cited that these have been beneficial for providing needed clarity on the intentions for how data is to be submitted under the request. These mechanisms regrettably do not however, lessen the actual investment of time needed by some divisions to fulfil the collection and submission of the data itself.

We look forward to your response at the earliest time in view of the stated deadline and are available to meet with you to discuss further should that be required.

Sincerely,



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cc Dana Rudy, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education