



## Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

OCT 23 2024

Sandy Nemeth  
President  
Manitoba School Boards Association  
sandy.nemeth@lrsd.net

Dear Sandy Nemeth:

Thank you for providing a copy of the resolutions passed at the 2024 resolutions session of the Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA). I am pleased to be able to respond to the three resolutions supported by your member boards.

### **1. School Year Start Date**

Changing the established calendar will have implications for our sector partners, students, and parents. Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning will review this suggestion and the pertinent information carefully. Before making any determination, the department will need to consider the proposal's regulatory and legal implications and consult with all educational stakeholders.

### **2. Increased Support and Resources for Newcomers**

We recognize that the province is welcoming a significant number of newcomers, including refugees from war-affected regions such as Syria and Ukraine. We understand that many of these new students face language barriers and require additional support in building their English language proficiency. As you know, English as an Additional Language (EAL) support is available for pupils with limited proficiency in the English language who are receiving EAL curriculum, instruction and related services. In budget 2024/25, the provincial government is providing school divisions with \$14.1 million in EAL support. We also acknowledge that the current Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) funding formula does not account for in-year enrolment growth. To address this, the province will provide an additional \$6.2 million to school divisions for 2024/25 to account for enrolment increases that may occur throughout the school year. The department also continues to work on the development of the new funding model.

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### 3. Grants For Interim Loans

I can advise you that municipalities are still required to remit Special Levy revenues to school divisions the following month after receipt. Beginning in 2024/25, the Department of Finance has committed to provide education property tax credit revenue and school tax rebate revenue a month after tax due dates in the respective municipalities.

My staff will reach out to your team to get a better understanding of the challenges that school divisions may be facing with respect to timing of tax remittances and explore potential solutions.

I appreciate you for bringing these resolutions to my attention. We look forward to continuing our work on these and other issues of shared interest.

Sincerely,



Tracy Schmidt  
Acting Minister  
Education and  
Early Childhood Learning

- c. Honourable Adrien Sala, Minister of Finance  
Honourable Malaya Marcelino, Minister of Labour and Immigration  
Brian O'Leary, Deputy Minister, Education and Early Childhood Learning  
Mona Pandey, Assistant Deputy Minister, System Performance and  
Accountability Division