



Talking about Manitoba's K-12 Education Review



Overview

On January 23, 2019, the Manitoba government announced the appointment of a nine-member Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the province's K-12 education system. The mandate of the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education is to "carry out an independent review of the province's K to 12 education system. Its goal will be improving outcomes for students, ensuring long-term sustainability and enhancing public confidence in our education system." Specifically, the Commission will:

- propose a renewed vision for K to 12 education;
- make recommendations that inspire excellence in teaching and learning, and ignite positive, progressive change in existing systems, structures and programs; and
- look at the K to 12 system as a continuum that takes an integrated, lifelong approach to learning, with strong links between early learning, post-secondary education and labour market success.

The Commission will consult with students, parents, educators, school boards, academics, Indigenous organizations, la francophonie, municipal councils, professional organizations, the business community and members of the public from across Manitoba. It has produced a public consultation discussion paper that sets the context for the review, and provides an overview of its mandate and the processes it will be following.

The Commission will also be conducting extensive research and studying best practices in order to fulfill its mandate.

Key Points

- School boards welcome the opportunity provided by the education review to engage with all Manitobans in an in-depth discussion about the role of public education in our society, and the best ways to ensure its ongoing relevance and strength.
- Our public school system is not static, but is constantly evolving in response to changing education and societal pressures and needs. Today's classrooms are significantly different from those found in schools only a few years ago. Those changes reflect the efforts of responsive and forward-thinking school boards and professional staff.
- The Education Review is looking at our public school system from a provincial perspective. It is seeking to identify approaches or changes that will benefit all students. While there is value in this approach, we need to guard against a one-size fits all view of public education. Student needs vary within a school, and community needs vary across the province. We need to ensure that our public school system retains the flexibility to address those varying needs.

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Q&A

What is the K-12 Education Review all about?

In its review of K-12 education in Manitoba, the Review Commission will focus on six areas.

1. **A long-term vision** –What should our goals and purpose be for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education?
2. **Student learning** – How do we help our students achieve excellence?
3. **Teaching** – How can we help teachers and school leaders to achieve better outcomes?
4. **Accountability for student learning** – How do we develop a stronger sense of shared accountability for student learning and an understanding that every member of the education team (e.g., principals, teachers, maintenance staff, bus drivers, administration staff) has an important role to play?
5. **Governance** – What governance structures do we need to put in place to make our education system more relevant and better coordinated?
6. **Funding** – How do we ensure that our education system is sustainable, and that it provides equitable learning opportunities for students of all ages?

Why should I care about the Education Review?

The answer to this question really depends on who is asking it, because while we all have a stake in public education, that stake differs from person to person and group to group. Below, we have identified a number of key groups that have a stake in public education, and listed some elements that can be incorporated into a response to the question “why should I care?” about the education review. These elements, which can be modified to reflect local circumstances, can be combined into a brief “elevator pitch” that you can have at the ready, no matter who is asking this important question.

Students

- Students are the experts about what is working and what needs to change in their schools.
- One of the focus areas of the review is governance of public education. Governance is important to students because they need to be able to connect with those directly responsible for running their schools if they are to affect change in those schools.
- The review gives current students a voice in shaping public education, not only for themselves, but for those students who follow them. Education is a social justice issue.

Parents

- You know what is working and what is not working for your children. Sharing that insight will benefit not only your own children, but all children.
- You know what your children need, academically, socially, and emotionally, and your involvement in the education review will help shape a school system that meets those needs.
- The education review is your opportunity to share your thoughts about student achievement—how it’s assessed, how it’s reported, and whether it’s meaningful to you as a parent.
- Schools serve entire communities as well as individual students. You know your community, its strengths and its challenges. Your input into the education review can help ensure that a renewed K-12 system can continue to be responsive to local, community needs.

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Non-parents/residents

- Even if you don't have kids in school, you have a stake in public education, because you depend on a well-educated citizenry.
- Your tax dollars pay for public education, whether you have children in the system or not. The review gives you a say in who will decide how those tax dollars are spent—the provincial government, or members of your own community.
- Schools serve entire communities as well as individual students. You know your community, its strengths and its challenges. Your input into the education review can help ensure that a renewed K-12 system can continue to be responsive to local, community needs.

Local government

- Strong schools are a key component of strong communities, attracting people and investment.
- Partnerships between school boards and local governments can benefit all community members—for example, joint investment in infrastructure, technology, or facilities.

Business/business organizations

- Students are your future employees, and a well-educated workforce is vital to the success of your business. The review gives you an opportunity to shape how we define well educated.
- Vocational programs that include a work experience component are mutually beneficial to students and businesses. Student get the real-world experience that gives deeper meaning to their in-school education, and business owners have a head start on training the next generation of skilled employees they need.
- School systems are large-scale consumers of goods and services. Locally governed school systems know what goods and services are available in their own community, and are more likely to utilize those provided by local businesses.

How do I make my voice heard?

Manitobans can participate in the education review consultation process by submitting a written report, attending an interactive public workshop, presenting a brief before a public hearing, or completing the online survey.

Written submissions, including name and contact information of the sender, should be sent to:

Email: K12educationcommission@gov.mb.ca

Fax: 204-945-0221

Post: Manitoba's Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education
470 – 800 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

The deadline for receipt of written submissions is **May 30, 2019**.

Interactive public workshops will be held across Manitoba from April 24 to May 15. These informal and flexible workshops are intended to allow Manitobans to get more information, share their thoughts, or take part in round-table discussions as their time and interest allows. The full schedule of workshops can be found at <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html>.

The online survey for the general public can be found at <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/education-review-public/>. A second survey, intended for teachers, can be found at <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/education-review-teacher/>.

Information on all aspects of Manitoba's K-12 Education Review can be found on the Manitoba School Boards Association website (www.mbschoolboards.ca) and the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education page (<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/index.html>).