



Manitoba Association of School Superintendents

Priorities 2016 – 2017



MASS believes that our mandate is to be *leaders of learning*, in our local school systems and in the broader domains of provincial, national and global public education.

We model learning that is:

- active and visible;
- based on robust research;
- tested through purposeful application in the field;
- evaluated using a wide range of meaningful data.

We take responsibility for our own continuous learning and the learning of everyone we lead:

- creating and fostering supportive, inclusive and challenging environments;
- ensuring essential learning for each and every child;
- preparing others to go beyond our own learning.

We are guided by our learning in shaping policy and practice to achieve what is best for the children in our care.

MASS believes that improved achievement and wellbeing for all of our students requires a shared commitment to raising both equity and quality.

- A conscious and persistent commitment to equity, system-wide and across sectors, leads to poverty reduction, greater inclusion and an appreciation for the riches that diversity brings.
- A purposeful and sustained commitment to quality education for every student increases the capacity for teaching, learning and leading throughout the system.
- A strong grounding in **literacy and numeracy** and a rich learning experience involving inquiry, creative agency and artistic expression enables all students to achieve success and to flourish.

MASS actively works towards equity and quality throughout the public education system, with a special focus on three action areas:

Indigenous Education

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Early Learning

MASS Focus Committee Priorities for 2016 – 2017

Early Learning:

The MASS Focus Committee will take leadership to ensure that MASS:

- Develops a plan for advocacy at every level for the Call to Action in the renewed MASS position paper on Early Childhood Education.
- Participates actively on the Provincial Educaring Committee.
- Calls on the provincial government for a renewed and more robust commitment to early childhood education, including a greater integration with the current public K – 12 system.

Indigenous Education:

The MASS Focus Committee will take leadership to ensure that MASS:

- Aligns MASS efforts with the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Final Report.
- Promotes ever increasing academic achievement, graduation, school completion and positive life outcomes for Indigenous students
- Participates broadly in liaisons with Indigenous partner groups, building awareness, taking collective action and gaining resources to support the MASS Call to Action for Indigenous education and the Calls to Action in the TRC Final Report.
- Participates actively in inter-organizational initiatives that address the Calls to Action in the TRC Final Report.
- Works with partners to improve preparation programs for Indigenous teacher candidates, while advocating for increasing the number of Indigenous teaching candidates.
- Supports actively the teaching of Indigenous perspectives, corrective history and culture and the use of Indigenous languages.
- Promotes social enterprises by using their services wherever possible for MASS activities and encouraging MASS members and educational partners to do likewise.
- Works with partners to host a provincial Student Leadership Cohort that will build cultural proficiency, leadership in leading courageous conversations about racism and participate in drafting of a student proclamation as a response to the Calls to Action in the TRC Final Report.
- Calls on CASSA to address the Calls to Action in the TRC Final Report at the national level, as part of our national voice.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

The MASS Focus Committee will take leadership to ensure that MASS:

- Supports full implementation of the provincial Children and Youth Mental Health Strategy.
- Collaborates with The Education for Sustainable Well-Being Research Group at the University of Manitoba in developing tools to assess the well-being and well-becoming of students in schools.
- Hosts a MASS November Conference on the theme of Citizenship and Wellbecoming, with Joel Westheimer and Thomas Falkenberg.
- Pursues inter-sectoral liaisons with public and mental health organizations and agencies.
- Contributes to a national voice on mental health through CASSA and through input into the Canadian Mental Health Strategy.
- Promotes gatekeeper training in mental health for all educators.

Educating for ACTION: Our Human Rights Journey

Victoria Inn, Winnipeg

April 21 - 21, 2017

This provincial conference, co-sponsored by MASS and MTS, will support our work in all of the focus areas outlined above and in many other areas related to our work in equity and human rights.