

A Quick Lesson on Manitoba's School System

From the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents (MASS)

Our schools are a reflection of our communities.

The lessons we learn from school help to create a stronger public.

- Students are receiving education that is future-thinking, developed with the long-term success of students beyond the classroom in mind.
 - Success is measured not just academically, but in the development of the critical thinking, media literacy and social skills that we all need and use.
 - Students learn about societal issues from racism to reconciliation, to climate change and gender and sexual identity.
 - Most importantly, students learn they have a voice to share... and how they can do so in a way that creates positive change.
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Our schools are testaments to the strength of diversity.

Inclusion is not a buzzword; it's an act rooted in empathy that enhances well-being.

- There are more students in our school system now than at any time before, and our schools plan for a wide range of needs to afford each individual every opportunity for success.
 - We also understand that there is no singular definition of success; learning is **for** everyone but does **not look the same** for everyone.
 - When students are able to learn in a way that works for them, they not only succeed but they are instilled with a sense of purpose and positive well-being
 - Student voice and community voice play a role in ensuring the system is equitable and reflects the needs of specific communities and individuals.
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Our schools – like all of us - are continually improving and evolving.

*Moving forward means moving forward **together**.*

- Every school division is working on improving learning outcomes for all students, while simultaneously attending to the related needs that directly impact both student well-being and the ability to learn.
 - Creative and flexible avenues – from shops and apprenticeships, to community volunteering and learning on the land – offer diversity in learning that contributes to lifelong lessons in creative thinking, compassion and community engagement while still meeting all curriculum requirements.
 - Education needs room to change and adapt as new methodologies and technologies become available; we learn best by being able to use the best methods available to help educate each student.
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CONCLUSION:

If there is one thing educators understand, it's that something that sounds good on paper doesn't necessarily work for everyone in reality.

By every measure that matters, Manitoba's students are **thriving**.

Our schools, the collaborative work of staff across the province, and the close relationships fostered with families and communities, shape the young lives of so many Manitobans in so many ways.

And **THAT** is a lesson based in facts.