



Education

School Programs Division
Robert Fletcher Building
307–1181 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3G 0T3

Bureau de l'éducation française Division
Robert Fletcher Building
509–1181 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3G 0T3

May 31, 2011

To: Superintendents of School Divisions

Dear Colleagues:

Re: *School Matters* – Call for Expressions of Interest

As part of the January 2011 Funding to Public Schools announcement, Manitoba Education shared news of a \$300,000 grant to develop and identify programs and initiatives to encourage and support students to stay in school.

Manitoba Education would like to invite school divisions, on behalf of schools, to submit expressions of interest in our new *School Matters* project. Selected schools will work with an external team to plan for and implement initiatives designed to address barriers to youth staying in school and increasing the success of these students.

This project is focussed on implementing a tiered intervention approach. This approach is based on the principle that the majority of students' educational needs are met through regular instruction and supports provided by the school – universal programming (Tier 1), but that some students require more intensive supports (Tiers 2 and 3), based on their level of need and how the need can be addressed. The project schools will be part of a Community of Learners with the opportunity to meet, learn and share information on a regular basis with a goal of collecting best practices to be shared across the province.

Capacity building, data gathering and planning, will take place from August - December 2011, with initial implementation of new initiatives beginning in January 2012.

For more information on this approach refer to the National High School Center's document *Tiered Interventions in High Schools: Using Preliminary 'Lessons Learned' to Guide Ongoing Discussion*, May 2010, found at:
<www.betterhighschools.org/pubs/documents/HSTII_LessonsLearned.pdf>.

Twelve schools, representing urban, rural and northern Manitoba will be selected to be part of this initiative. Participating schools will receive approximately \$15,000 per year for two years to address in-school planning, participation in project meetings, and support for initiatives (remote schools will receive additional funding to support higher travel costs). A portion of the funding will be used to support the External Team (mentors, researchers, other experts) who will work closely with each school as they develop and implement their plan and monitor success.

Expressions of interest should include:

1. School Division, School, Contact Person
2. Identified Need/Issue: (i.e., socio-economic indicators, community profile, attendance data, drop-out data, graduation rate)
3. Capacity (existing initiatives, staffing, school planning objectives)
4. Site-based Team (name, position, years at school)

The Expression of Interest must be submitted no later than June 24, 2011 and divisions will be notified of results of the selection by June 28, 2011.

Should you have any questions about the process outlined here, please contact:

Aileen Najduch
Email: aileen.najduch@gov.mb.ca
Telephone: 204-945-7935
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-8069 (ext. 7935)

Please submit expressions of interest by June 24, 2011 to:

School Matters
School Programs Division
Manitoba Education
307 - 1181 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg Manitoba R3G 0T3
OR Fax to: 204-945-8303
OR Email to: shannon.vermette@gov.mb.ca

We look forward to working with schools on this exciting new initiative.

Sincerely,

"Original Signed by"

Aileen Najduch
Assistant Deputy Minister
School Programs Division

"Original Signed by"

Jean-Vianney Auclair
Assistant Deputy Minister
Bureau de l'éducation française Division