



**Education, Citizenship
and Youth**

School Programs Division

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<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/assess>

February 2006

**To: Superintendents of School Divisions
Principals of Schools (Grade 7 and Grade 8)
First Nations Directors of Education**

**Re: Middle Years Assessment in Key Competencies in Mathematics, Reading
Comprehension, Expository Writing and Student Engagement with School—Revision
to Implementation Schedule**

Dear colleagues,

The purpose of this letter is to announce a revised implementation schedule for the Middle Years Assessment policy. The information in this letter and in correspondence which will follow supersedes existing policy and information you received in May 2005¹.

The implementation plan below is the result of input received from teachers, administrators, educational consultants and partner organizations gathered over the course of the pilot process this current school year. The collaboration and professional commitment of the pilot teachers and educational partners have been invaluable to the process, and our appreciation is expressed to those who have worked diligently with us over the past year.

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¹ The current policy document and associated letter are available at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/assess/publications.html>. Further information is also available on the dedicated Middle Years Assessment website: <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/assess/myreporting.html>

Implementation, mandatory for school divisions and publicly funded independent schools, will be phased in over two years, and is illustrated in the table below.

Grade	Key Competency	Mandatory Implementation	School Programs
7	Number sense	Fall 2006	All
	Number skills	Fall 2006	All
	Student engagement with school	Fall 2007	All
8	Reading comprehension in French	Fall 2006	Français and French Immersion
	Expository writing in French	Fall 2007	Français and French Immersion
	Expository writing in English ²	Fall 2006	English and French Immersion
	Reading comprehension in English	Fall 2007	English and French Immersion

Schools and school divisions may chose to follow the revised implementation schedule described above, or implement all aspects of the policy beginning in the fall of 2006.

A revised policy document will be published by April 2006, to be followed by support materials covering all competencies addressed by the policy. The materials will include detailed descriptions of the competencies, their associated performance indicators and the reporting templates for reporting to parents.

Information will follow shortly regarding orientation sessions and professional learning opportunities for middle years teachers and administrators this spring and in the fall of 2006. The focus for training sessions this year will be on the competencies mandated for implementation beginning in the fall of 2006.

Those interested in further information about the policy will find a number of documents and resources on the dedicated websites: <<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/assess/myreporting.html>> (English) and <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ms4/eval/eval_7_8.html> (French).

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² Reading Comprehension and Expository Writing in English are optional for Français program schools.

As further information becomes available, such as regarding support and strategies for training, it will be communicated as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact Jacqueline Gosselin at 945-6939 or Wenda Dickens at 945-5104 or toll-free at 1 800 282-8069, extension 6939 or 5104 respectively.

Your ongoing cooperation is appreciated as we continue to work collaboratively towards the successful implementation of this policy.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Longston
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
School Programs Division

Yours sincerely,



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

- c. Principals of Middle Years Public Schools
- Principals of Band-Operated Schools
- The Manitoba Association of School Trustees
- The Manitoba Association of School Superintendents
- The Manitoba Teachers' Society
- Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre