



Manitoba Education
School Programs
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May 18, 2010

TO: Student Services Administrators

Dear Colleagues:

In April of 2002 all divisions in Manitoba received a letter from then Deputy Minister of Education, Ben Levin, in regard to instructional time for students with special needs.

School divisions were advised that students with special needs should be provided the opportunity to attend school and benefit from the same instructional hours and days as their peers and that school divisions need to provide learning opportunities and environments that meet the particular needs of individual students while fostering an inclusive educational community.

The issue has again been brought forward as some parents and service providers have voiced concern that they are being told their young people cannot attend school on days when exams are being written. As you can understand, such a practice puts an additional burden on parents and service providers. Even more concerning, however, is that although these students are not taking exams they are not able to continue to receive instruction.

Please be reminded that when students are not participating in the exam process the obligation to provide educational programming continues until the final day of the semester. The practice of suspending classes in order to give students an opportunity to study for and write exams is not appropriate for those students who receive individualized programming and do not participate in the exams.

Providing appropriate programming and planning for students with exceptional needs can be challenging and I would like to assure you that staff from the Program and Student Services Branch are available for consultation and assistance.

Sincerely,

"original signed by"

Aileen Najdich
Assistant Deputy Minister

c. Superintendents of School Divisions
Joanna Blais