Supporting Students with Medical Challenges

School Division Support

In Manitoba, school divisions have an obligation to provide each enrolled resident student with educational programming. When a school principal, in consultation with the superintendent or designate, determines that educational programming must occur in a place other than a school building because the physical placement is not appropriate, this is not home schooling, even if the programming happens in the home. This exceptional decision should only be made when attendance in a school building would cause risk to the child or other children or staff; for example, if the child was injured and could not travel safely to school.

If the school/school division determines that the alternative programming is to work at home with Distance Learning courses, the student would be registered at the school and the cost of the Distance Learning courses would be borne by the school/school division. This includes programming that may occur off-site (i.e. home-based, alternative programs, community settings).

Manitoba schools have a long history of accommodating students with a wide range of emotional, physical, and academic needs and it is expected that the school system provide programming for all students eligible to attend.

If the parent and school/division are in conflict over what the appropriate educational programming should be, consult the document. Working Together - A Guide to Positive Problem Solving for Schools, Families, and Communities

Homeschooling Office Support

The Homeschooling Office will review and may approve the homeschooling of a child when attendance in a school would be detrimental to their health (i.e. terminal illness or immune deficiencies) and the school division is unable or unwilling to provide support such that the student can receive programming at home.

To qualify, the student:
- is between 7 and 21 years of age
- is not registered in a school
- has not graduated from high school
Parents/guardians are to complete the following three steps and submit the documentation to the Homeschooling Office. When approved, Manitoba Education and Training will directly cover the costs of course materials.

**Step 1: Notification Form**

Complete the Student Notification Form - MEDICAL Grades 1-8 or Grades 9-12 for each school-age child. [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/ind/homeschool/medical.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/ind/homeschool/medical.html)

**Step 2: School/School Division Declaration and Report Card/Transcript**

Meet with the school principal to discuss homeschooling due to medical challenges and obtain school/school division authorization signatures, if appropriate, on the Student Notification Form – MEDICAL Grades 1-8 or Grades 9-12. This form must be completed annually. (The school/school division is to provide declaration signatures for each year they are unable to provide services.) Request the most recent report card or high school transcript.

**Step 3: Medical Letter**

Meet with your child’s medical doctor (MD) to obtain written documentation that he/she is unable to attend school for medical reasons. The doctor is to provide a letter each school year on medical clinic letterhead. The information required in the medical letter is outlined on the Student Notification Form – MEDICAL Grades 1-8 or Grades 9-12.

**Parent/Guardian Support**

When access and programming in a public or independent school is available but the parent chooses to educate their child at home because they believe it is the best choice for their child, the parent is then responsible for all resources and materials, including the cost of the Distance Learning courses. Provincial funding is not available to families who homeschool.

Parents who choose to homeschool their children must notify Manitoba Education and Training of their intent by completing a Student Notification Form for each child. The name, date of birth, grade level, the school or school division the child would otherwise attend, and an outline of the education program are required. Parents must also submit Progress Reports in January and June. Student Notification Forms and Progress Reports are to be submitted annually for each child.

Visit the Homeschooling website for notification packages, curriculum options and other resources [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/ind/homeschool/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/ind/homeschool/index.html)

Should you require additional information, please contact:

Homeschooling Office
Manitoba Education and Training
204-945-8138 (toll free 1-800-282-8069, ext. 8138)
homeschooling@gov.mb.ca