

Introduction

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning (hereinafter named the department) is committed to fostering inclusion for all students (MEECL, *Standards for Appropriate Educational Programming in Manitoba*, 2022). Under The Public Schools Act (PSA) and Appropriate Educational Programming Regulation (M.R. 155/05), all students in Manitoba have a right to appropriate educational programming in a safe, caring, and inclusive environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviours.

This policy directive is identified in [Manitoba's K to 12 Education Action Plan](#) (April 2022) as an action that focuses on improving learning and outcomes for all students and enhancing inclusive mindsets and practices that support student success. All Manitoba students can succeed no matter where they live, their backgrounds, or their individual circumstances (MEECL, *Manitoba's K to 12 Education Action Plan*, 2022).

This policy directive builds upon, and supports, the recommendations made by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) and the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education report [Our Children's Success: Manitoba's Future: Report of the Commission on K to 12 Education](#) (2020), specifically "to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices, except in situations of imminent safety risk to students and staff, balancing appropriately the need for at-risk students to receive an education, and ensuring that all students have a safe and orderly learning environment" (Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education, 2020, p. 63).

All school divisions and funded independent schools are required to revise and/or develop policies and procedures on the use of suspension consistent with the guidelines within this policy directive. The information and guidelines in this document are intended to support school divisions in meeting these recommendations.

Student safety is a priority for every education stakeholder, and this document is intended to support schools in ensuring student safety through proactive interventions and alternatives to student suspensions whenever possible.

