

At School

As a parent, what can I expect for my child at school?

- Calendars and Schedules
- Safety and Transportation
- Attendance
- School Supplies
- Technology
- Progress and Report Cards



→ School Calendars and Schedules

Your child attends school from September to the end of June. Schools are open from Monday to Friday.

All schools are closed on national and provincial holidays and on in-service days, when teachers meet for learning and meetings.

Other breaks usually include:

- **Winter break:** Near the end of December and early January, the school is closed for about two weeks.
- **Spring break:** School is closed for one week at the end of March.
- **Summer break:** There is a two-month break between the end of the school year in the last week of June to the beginning of the new school year in early September.

Holidays

- **Thanksgiving** (October)
 - **Remembrance Day** (November)
 - **Louis Riel Day** (February)
 - **Good Friday** (March or April)
 - **Victoria Day** (May)
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Schools have different start and end times, but usually they begin between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and end between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Students cannot be dropped off at school too early. Ask your school about exact start and end times and rules for dropping off your child. Lunch is around 12 p.m., and students may have the choice of bringing a lunch to eat at school or going home to eat.



→ Safety First

Schools are safe places. In emergencies or extreme weather, most schools have a way to let you know its plan on making sure students are safe.

All schools have safety plans for fires and other threats. Students practise leaving the building calmly and quickly. Your child will practise fire drills at least 10 times every year.

→ School Transportation

Most students walk to school, or parents drive them to and from school. You can also ask your school division about school buses. School divisions will arrange for school buses if your child meets the requirements. Usually, you will need to live 1.6 km or more from your school to be approved.

In independent (private) schools, ask about transportation options.



→ What does my child need for school?

Ask your school for a list of supplies. Some schools provide supplies for a fee. If you need help finding or buying items, please ask a teacher. Remember to write your child's name on all items. Common items are:



Backpack



Pencil crayons, paint, and crayons



Calculator, notebooks, scissors, glue, and ruler



Lunch box and water bottle



Pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, and eraser



Lock, gym clothes, and indoor shoes

→ Attendance

In school every day . . .

Going to school every day and being on time is important unless your child is sick.

If your child is going to be away or late, call the school. Teachers may send school work home if your child is away.

If your child misses many classes, schools will usually talk with your child to make a plan.

Ask your school about other rules

Schools often have rules about things such as:

- **Behaviour:** There are often rewards for good behaviour and consequences for bad behaviour.
- **Dress codes:** Schools allow for different kinds of clothes. In public schools, students do not wear uniforms.
- **Lunches:** There are often rules about what foods your child can take to school because of health guidelines and/or some students' food allergies. Some lunch programs also have fees.

Can my child bring a cell phone to school?

Ask your school if your child can bring a computer, tablet, or cell phone into the classroom.

Usually, students sign up for a school email address. With a school email, your child can get software to do school work at home and at school.

If your child needs to use a computer, they are often available at school or in public libraries.



→ Progress and Report Cards

Teachers will help your child learn and talk to you about your child's learning progress. To do this, teachers will assess your child in different ways.

Parents are invited to visit the school and meet teachers during parent-teacher conferences. You can also call your school at any time to make an appointment to meet with a teacher.

Your child will also bring home report cards to show their progress. Information for parents about the report cards is available in many languages on our website.

When there are province-wide, national, and international assessments, results are used to improve schools to help all students learn.

These assessments do not affect your child's placement in school programs.

MANITOBA EDUCATION

Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch
1567 Dublin Avenue | Winnipeg | Manitoba | R3E 3J5
TELEPHONE: 204-945-8806

VISIT US AT
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/gts.html