

---

# APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN MANITOBA

---

Extending Genuine Learning  
and Social Experiences for  
All School Communities,  
Consultation Summary

2006



---

# ***APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN MANITOBA***

*Extending Genuine Learning  
and Social Experiences for  
All School Communities,  
Consultation Summary*

**2006**

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

---

## Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth Cataloguing in Publication Data

371.9046           Appropriate educational programming in Manitoba :  
                          extending genuine learning and social experiences for  
                          all school communities. Consultation summary

ISBN 0-7711-3491-6

1. Inclusive education—Manitoba. 2. Children with disabilities—Education—Manitoba.
3. Special education—Manitoba. I. Manitoba. Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

Copyright © 2006, the Crown in Right of Manitoba as represented by the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth. Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, School Programs Division, 1970 Ness Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 0Y9.

Every effort has been made to acknowledge original sources and to comply with copyright law. If cases are identified where this has not been done, please notify Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. Errors or omissions will be corrected in a future edition. Sincere thanks to the authors and publishers who allowed their original material to be adapted or reproduced.

This document is also available on the Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth website at:  
<<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/specedu/documents.html>>.

## **APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN MANITOBA: CONSULTATION SUMMARY**

---

*Bill 13* reflects a commitment to inclusion and to providing Manitoba students with appropriate educational programming supportive of student participation in both the academic and social life of schools. The legislation affirms what the practice is in many school divisions and clarifies for parents and school divisions the obligation to provide appropriate educational programming for each student.

The legislation and proposed regulation reflect the input of hundreds of parents, teachers, students and others involved in the province's educational system. Dozens of organizations, along with individual Manitobans, contributed significant time and effort to shape the legislation and regulation, which set the framework for appropriate programming for children with exceptional learning needs. The legislation and proposed regulation also provide for a dispute resolution process should a disagreement arise about the appropriateness of educational programming provided by a school board for a student.

This document is a summary of the views, ideas and opinions that teachers, parents, students, school trustees and others involved in education shared with the provincial government. This input has been extremely valuable in shaping the legislation and supporting regulation, as well as the supporting standards, protocols and policies.

*Bill 13* reflects the government's commitment to change Manitoba's legislation to be consistent with the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and legislation in other provinces. The legislation also responds to a recommendation of the *Manitoba Special Education Review* (1999). The *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, as part of the Canadian Constitution, is the supreme law of Canada. Section 15 of the charter guarantees all Canadians equality before and under the law, the right to equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination, in particular, "without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability." The charter applies to all laws, programming, policies and services, including *The Public Schools Act* and *The Education Administration Act*, and all bodies carrying out government intentions, such as public school boards.

Grounded in Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth's philosophy of inclusion, *Bill 13* provides for regulation and other supports such as policies, standards and documents. The intent is to assist all students, particularly students with exceptional learning needs who may not have experienced equal access to educational opportunities, to achieve their goals, continue to learn and actively participate in their communities.

During the first stage of the consultation process, sessions were held with 15 educational organizations and groups. Regional consultations in the second phase involved 34 school divisions and over 390 teachers, parents, administrators, school trustees and students in seven sessions, at six locations around the province. Consultations supported broad discussion and an exchange of a range of views on different topics, including defining appropriate educational programming and how to phrase the supporting regulations, standards and protocols that would support the legislation.

A stakeholder forum, which was the third and final stage of the consultations, involved 75 participants from 14 organizations and four clinician associations. Stakeholders contributed their views and comments on a proposed definition of appropriate educational programming, as well as on other areas that would be dealt with through regulation and by establishing standards, policies and protocols.

The consultation process identified several key points or messages consistently. It was generally acknowledged that the majority of students in Manitoba receive appropriate and effective programming and services. There was overwhelming support for the philosophy of inclusion. Teachers and school divisions are working hard to ensure students learn to the best of their abilities. *Bill 13* was seen as a positive step to entrench the province's legal responsibility to provide all students with the opportunity to actively participate in both the academic and social life of their schools. It also brings Manitoba in line with the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, *The Human Rights Code* of Manitoba and legislation in other provinces.

Educational organizations and individuals identified the need to define appropriate educational programming to ensure a common understanding across school communities in the province. The regulations and other supports that will assist in implementing the legislation need to provide clear direction for all areas of the province and be flexible enough to allow schools to address the individual needs of students in unique circumstances. Funding to support *Bill 13* was also identified as important. Participants in the consultation process also noted that parental and student involvement, particularly in the individual education planning process, needs to be strengthened.

During the consultation process, participants identified appropriate educational programming as a process to help students achieve a variety of goals, including successful learning, positive relations with friends and peers and active participation in community life. This feedback was used to develop a definition of appropriate educational programming for consideration at the final phase of the consultation process at the stakeholder forum. After discussion at that forum the following definition was identified:

Appropriate educational programming is a collaborative school-family-community process where school communities create learning environments and provide resources and services that are responsive to the lifelong learning, social and emotional needs of all students.

The consultation process ultimately identified eight key areas for the legislative regulations, standards and other support documents for the implementation of *Bill 13*:

1. placement and accessibility
2. early identification
3. student assessment
4. individual education planning
5. student services planning and reporting
6. student discipline
7. dispute resolution
8. inclusive education policy

The resulting regulations and supporting documents can be found at [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/specedu/bill\\_13/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/specedu/bill_13/index.html).

The consultations played a pivotal role in developing a process for implementing this important piece of legislation. It is anticipated that ongoing feedback and the information gathered will further inform the efforts of the provincial government to ensure the provision of appropriate educational programming that supports student participation in the academic and social life of schools in Manitoba.

The regulations promote what is already good practice in the province, and affirm and celebrate the efforts most schools have made to provide appropriate educational programming for all students. They promote greater involvement of parents in the planning and programming decisions affecting their children, and greater involvement of students in the academic, social and community life of their schools.







Printed in Canada  
Imprimé au Canada