

# Rural and Northern Clinician Initiative

## Information Sheet for School Divisions--September 2023

### Bursary Program

Rural and Northern School Divisions can access funding to establish a local bursary to assist in the recruitment and retention of specialized professional staff in hard to fill geographic areas.

The funding is available to rural and northern school divisions to assist individuals with cost of training in speech language pathology, psychology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, or other specialty areas such as interpreter tutors.

In return for financial assistance, individuals agree to enter into a Return of Service Agreement with the school division.

### Eligibility

A school division must enter into an agreement with an individual who has:

- been accepted or is currently enrolled in a recognized eligible education program; and agreed to a return of service in rural or northern Manitoba (bursary or paid educational leave),

or

- recently graduated from an eligible education program and has entered into an employment agreement to work in a rural or northern school division as their first employment in Manitoba (tuition rebate).

### Bursary Amount

The maximum amount school divisions can receive under this grant is \$30,000 per year. Each bursary/educational leave recipient can be supported for up to two years of eligible training.

- existing divisional employees who wish to acquire additional training in one of the identified difficult to fill positions (up to a maximum of \$30,000 per individual); or
- a current post-secondary student who is accepted or enrolled in a course of studies that will lead to eligibility to work in Manitoba schools (up to a maximum of \$15,000 per individual); or
- newly graduated clinicians, for student loans or tuition fees (up to a maximum of \$10,000 per individual).

Students studying on a part-time basis can receive a prorated bursary.

### Return of Service Requirements

Successful applicants must provide one year of service employment in return for one year of support for tuition or the first employment incentive ( i.e., two years of bursary/educational leave = two year service agreement). Recipients are required to sign a formal agreement with the division to work in the school division after completion of training or signed contract. A sample Return of Service Agreement is posted on the Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning website at: [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/rndi/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/rndi/index.html).

Failure to complete return of service will require the funds to be repaid, including interest at the rate stipulated in the bursary agreement. Please be advised that if either party cannot fulfill the terms of the agreement it is the division's responsibility to inform Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. Clearly inform the recipient that failure to complete the agreement would require repayment. This repayment requirement could be prorated or complete reimbursement.

Return of Service Agreements can have a condition of full payment to the recipient at the completion of the agreement.

## Application Process

The following documentation must be submitted by the school division to Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning (address below):

1. Completed application form.
2. Documentation from an eligible education program indicating that student has been accepted, is enrolled in the program, or recently graduated (a copy of the transcript of marks indicating the date of convocation).
3. Signed Service Agreement.
4. Letter from school division describing need for service and plan for applicant's employment.

## Application Deadlines

- Prior to June 15 (already enrolled) for bursary/educational leave to be applied to the following academic year.
- Prior to January 30 for tuition support for new graduates hired for the current school year.

## Selection Process

It is the school division's responsibility to select applicants who are eligible for the bursary, educational leave or tuition rebate. School divisions must submit all documentation to Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning for processing and approval. In the event that there are more applicants for this grant than funding can support, priority will be given to school divisions demonstrating local need and longstanding staff vacancies.

For further information contact:

Student Services Unit,

Inclusion Support Branch

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

204-1181 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 0T3

Telephone: 204-945-7912

Toll Free in Manitoba: 1-800-282-8069, ext. 7912

Fax: 204-948-3229

Email: [isbinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:isbinfo@gov.mb.ca)