February 2006

To: Superintendents of School Divisions
   Principals of Schools (Grade 7 and Grade 8)
   First Nations Directors of Education

Re: Middle Years Assessment in Key Competencies in Mathematics, Reading
   Comprehension, Expository Writing and Student Engagement with School—Revision to Implementation Schedule

Dear colleagues,

The purpose of this letter is to announce a revised implementation schedule for the Middle Years Assessment policy. The information in this letter and in correspondence which will follow supersedes existing policy and information you received in May 20051.

The implementation plan below is the result of input received from teachers, administrators, educational consultants and partner organizations gathered over the course of the pilot process this current school year. The collaboration and professional commitment of the pilot teachers and educational partners have been invaluable to the process, and our appreciation is expressed to those who have worked diligently with us over the past year.

Implementation, mandatory for school divisions and publicly funded independent schools, will be phased in over two years, and is illustrated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Key Competency</th>
<th>Mandatory Implementation</th>
<th>School Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Number sense</td>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number skills</td>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student engagement with school</td>
<td>Fall 2007</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Reading comprehension in French</td>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>Français and French Immersion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expository writing in French</td>
<td>Fall 2007</td>
<td>Français and French Immersion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expository writing in English²</td>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>English and French Immersion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading comprehension in English</td>
<td>Fall 2007</td>
<td>English and French Immersion</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Schools and school divisions may choose to follow the revised implementation schedule described above, or implement all aspects of the policy beginning in the fall of 2006.

A revised policy document will be published by April 2006, to be followed by support materials covering all competencies addressed by the policy. The materials will include detailed descriptions of the competencies, their associated performance indicators and the reporting templates for reporting to parents.

Information will follow shortly regarding orientation sessions and professional learning opportunities for middle years teachers and administrators this spring and in the fall of 2006. The focus for training sessions this year will be on the competencies mandated for implementation beginning in the fall of 2006.

Those interested in further information about the policy will find a number of documents and resources on the dedicated websites: <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/assess/myreporting.html> (English) and <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ms4/eval/eval_7_8.html> (French).

² Reading Comprehension and Expository Writing in English are optional for Français program schools.
As further information becomes available, such as regarding support and strategies for training, it will be communicated as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact Jacqueline Gosselin at 945-6939 or Wenda Dickens at 945-5104 or toll-free at 1 800 282-8069, extension 6939 or 5104 respectively.

Your ongoing cooperation is appreciated as we continue to work collaboratively towards the successful implementation of this policy.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Longston  
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister  
School Programs Division

Jean-Vianney Auclair  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Bureau de l’éducation française Division

c. Principals of Middle Years Public Schools  
   Principals of Band-Operated Schools  
The Manitoba Association of School Trustees  
The Manitoba Association of School Superintendents  
The Manitoba Teachers’ Society  
Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre