

## Survey Results from Manitoba's "Conversation about Education" Questionnaire

<b>Table 1: Topics completed</b>		
Topics	(n = 3,220)	
	n	%
Innovation and Quality in Early Learning	2,775	86%
Helping Parents Help Their Children	2,288	71%
Strengthening the Role of Schools in Our Communities	2,161	67%
Preparing High School Students for Success	2,012	63%
After High School Graduation – What's Next?	1,841	57%
Note: Respondents could choose more than one section; therefore, totals will sum to more than 100%.		

<b>Table 2: Profile of parents</b>	
<i>Do you have children? Please indicate which of the following best describes your current situation. How many children do you have currently attending...</i>	
	%
<b>Have children</b>	<b>(n = 3,220)</b>
Yes	83%
No	17%
<b>With children</b>	<b>(n = 2,668)</b>
<b>Child care</b>	
Currently have children in daycare or child care	33%
In the past, had children in daycare or child care	37%
In the near future, will have children in daycare or child care	6%
Have not had experience with daycare or child care and will not in near future	25%
<b>Children's education</b>	
Preschool	27%
Elementary school	44%
Middle school	18%
High school	20%
Post-secondary (university, college)	14%
Note: Questions may not sum to 100% due to rounding.	

<b>Table 3: Profile of student respondents</b>	
<i>Are you currently a student? In what school level are you currently enrolled?</i>	
	%
<b>Student</b>	<b>(n = 3,220)</b>
Yes	10%
No	90%
<b>Education</b>	<b>(n = 329)</b>
Post-secondary	85%
High school	13%
Middle school	2%
Elementary school	<1%

**Table 4: Agreement that full-day kindergarten should be a priority in Manitoba**

*Right now, in Manitoba, kindergarten is available to five-year-olds for half days only. Some provinces are moving towards full-day kindergarten and it has been suggested that Manitoba do the same. Would you agree or disagree that full-day kindergarten should be a priority in Manitoba?*

	% (n = 2,775)
Strongly agree	41%
Somewhat agree	20%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	27%
Don't know/no response	2%

Note: Column may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 5: Agreement that half-day preschool should be a priority in Manitoba**

*Right now, in some school divisions, parents have the option of enrolling their four-year-olds in preschool programs. It has been suggested that half-day preschool should become a part of the regular school system, that is, available and required for all four-year-olds in the province. Do you agree or disagree that half-day preschool for four-year-olds should be a priority in Manitoba?*

	% (n = 2,775)
Strongly agree	35%
Somewhat agree	24%
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	27%
Don't know/no response	2%

Note: Column may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 6: Importance of having resources for parents of preschool-aged children**

*One way of giving support to parents with preschool-aged children is to provide them with educational resources. These resources—such as community story circles and educational materials—could be made available to parents so they can help their preschool-aged children learn at home and possibly be better prepared for elementary school. How important is this to you?*

	% (n = 2,775)
Very important	46%
Somewhat important	36%
Not very important	11%
Not important at all	5%
Don't know/no response	1%

Note: Column may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 7: Receiving supports for children with a disability**

*Children with a disability can often face challenges in school. As far as you know, in Manitoba, do preschool-aged children with special needs receive adequate and timely supports to help them learn and prepare them for school?*

	% (n = 2,775)
Yes	23%
No	30%
Don't know/no response	47%

**Table 8: Most important role of daycare**

Many Manitoba children attend daycare, either in home-based daycares or child care centres. Of the following, which do you think should be the most important role of daycare?

	% (n = 2,775)
Socialization - helping children learn how to interact with other children	71%
Structured learning that follows a curriculum	14%
Babysitting so that parents can work or go to school	14%
No response	1%

**Table 9: Preference for reporting grades**

Manitoba is working with teachers and parents to develop plain-language report cards that will help parents clearly understand their children's progress in school. How would you like to see grades reported?

	% (n = 2,288)
Letter grades for younger children and percentages for older students	42%
Percentages in all grades (e.g., 63%, 84%)	28%
Another type of scale (e.g., poor to excellent)	20%
Letter grades in all grades (e.g., A, B+, C)	7%
Don't know/no response	3%

**Table 10: Parent councils at children's schools**

As far as you know, is there a parent council at your child(ren)'s school(s)?

	School type %		
	Elementary (n = 861)	Middle school (n = 361)	High school (n = 366)
Has parent council	93%	88%	77%
Does not have parent council	3%	4%	10%
Don't know/no response	5%	8%	13%

Note: Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 11: Usefulness of parent councils at schools without one**

Generally, how useful would it be to have a parent council at your child(ren)'s...

	School type # of respondents		
	Elementary (n = 23)	Middle school (n = 16)	High school (n = 37)
Very useful	7	6	12
Somewhat useful	10	7	14
Not very useful	5	2	10
Not at all useful	1	1	1

Note: Very small sample sizes, interpret with caution.

<b>Table 12: Roles of parent council</b>			
<i>What roles does the parent council play at your child(ren)'s school(s)? Select all that apply.</i>			
	<b>School type</b>		
	<b>%</b>		
	<b>Elementary (n = 798)</b>	<b>Middle school (n = 316)</b>	<b>High school (n = 280)</b>
Fundraising	95%	88%	68%
Participating in school improvement activities	87%	75%	53%
Organizing special events	80%	56%	38%
Coordinating specific events such as Safe Grad, fairs, and lunch programs	73%	61%	70%
Informing parents and community members of school activities	68%	55%	50%
Informing parents and community members of volunteer opportunities	65%	48%	37%
Discussing school plans with administration	58%	54%	61%
Promoting community interest, understanding, and involvement	46%	39%	36%
Advocating for quality education and well-being of children and youth	43%	43%	43%
No response	1%	1%	4%
Note: Respondents could choose more than one response; therefore, columns will sum to more than 100%.			

<b>Table 13: Parent councils representing concerns and views of parents</b>	
<i>Do you feel the parent council(s) represent(s) the concerns and views of parents?</i>	
	<b>% (n = 1,082)</b>
Always	6%
Mostly	48%
Sometimes	34%
Rarely	10%
No response	1%
Note: Column may not sum to 100% due to rounding.	

<b>Table 14: Amount of contact with children's school</b>			
<i>Thinking of the contact you have from your child(ren)'s school, generally, do you think you have too little, about the right amount, or too much contact from staff, such as teachers, resource teachers, and principals?</i>			
	<b>School level</b>		
	<b>%</b>		
	<b>Elementary (n = 861)</b>	<b>Middle school (n = 361)</b>	<b>High school (n = 366)</b>
Too little contact	29%	35%	43%
About the right amount	70%	64%	56%
Too much contact	1%	1%	1%
No response	<1%	<1%	1%
Note: Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding.			

<b>Table 15: Comfortable with talking to school staff about problems and concerns</b>			
<i>How comfortable do you feel talking to staff at your child(ren)'s school about problems and concerns?</i>			
	<b>School level</b>		
	<b>%</b>		
	<b>Elementary (n = 861)</b>	<b>Middle school (n = 361)</b>	<b>High school (n = 366)</b>
Very comfortable	64%	61%	51%
Somewhat comfortable	28%	30%	39%
Not at all comfortable	7%	9%	9%
No response	<1%	<1%	1%

Note: Columns may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

<b>Table 16: Choice of school children can attend</b>	
<i>In your school division, do parents have a choice about which school their child can attend?</i>	
	<b>Can attend school of their choice</b>
	<b>% (n = 1,188)</b>
Elementary school	60%
Middle school	51%
High school	54%

<b>Table 17: Concern with bullying, violence, or safety issues at school</b>	
<i>Overall, how much of a concern are bullying, violence, or safety issues at your child(ren)'s school(s)?</i>	
	<b>%</b>
	<b>(n = 1,188)</b>
Very serious	24%
Somewhat serious	30%
Not very serious	34%
Not a concern at all	7%
Don't have enough information to know	5%

<b>Table 18: Support for some high schools developing areas of specialization</b>	
<i>It has been suggested that some Manitoba high schools should be encouraged to develop an area of specialization. While all public and provincially funded schools would continue to offer all required courses within the Manitoba curriculum, some schools might focus on arts and music, while others might specialize in math and science. Do you support or oppose this idea that some high schools should develop specific areas of specialization?</i>	
	<b>%</b>
	<b>(n = 2,012)</b>
Strongly support	25%
Somewhat support	37%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	15%
Don't know/no response	5%

Note: Column may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

<b>Table 19: Agreement that economy requires focus on science and math</b>	
<i>Some people have argued that the modern economy requires more science and math training in school, even at the expense of other subjects. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?</i>	
	<b>% (n = 2,012)</b>
Strongly agree	10%
Somewhat agree	31%
Somewhat disagree	29%
Strongly disagree	26%
Don't know/no response	5%
Note: Column may not sum to 100% due to rounding.	

<b>Table 20: Agreement that early learning helps children in school</b>	
<i>Some people say that putting more resources into early learning helps children later in school. Would you agree or disagree that when the government spends more on preschool education, this investment pays off in the long run?</i>	
	<b>% (n = 2,012)</b>
Strongly agree	46%
Somewhat agree	31%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	8%
Don't know/no response	4%

<b>Table 21: Graduation from high school within last five years</b>	
<i>Did you or one of your children graduate from high school within the last five years?</i>	
<b>Graduated in last five years</b>	<b>% (n = 1,841)</b>
Respondent	4%
Respondent's child	18%
Neither respondent nor their child	78%
No response	<1%

<b>Table 22: Improving access to post-secondary education and training</b>	
<i>Of the following, what would you recommend to improve access to post-secondary education and training for people who live in communities without a post-secondary institution? Select all that apply.</i>	
	<b>% (n = 1,841)</b>
More online education	62%
More flexibility in transferring credits between different schools	56%
Better support to help rural students who are living away from home in larger centres such as Winnipeg, Brandon, etc.	54%
More distance education	48%
Don't know/no response	11%
Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; therefore, column will sum to more than 100%.	

<b>Table 23: Agreement that high schools in Manitoba adequately prepare students for job market</b>	
<i>Currently, do you agree or disagree that high schools in Manitoba adequately prepare students for the job market?</i>	
	<b>% (n = 1,841)</b>
Strongly agree	5%
Somewhat agree	34%
Somewhat disagree	30%
Strongly disagree	21%
Don't know/no response	10%

<b>Table 24: Seriously consider trade</b>	
<i>A trade is a skilled position requiring post-secondary training, such as an electrician, carpenter, or chef. Would you seriously consider a trade for... Select all that apply.</i>	
<b>Would seriously consider trade for...</b>	<b>% (n = 1,841)</b>
Respondent	32%
Respondent's child	80%
Neither respondent nor their child	16%
No response	<1%

Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; therefore, column will sum to more than 100%.

<b>Table 25: How available school space should be used by local community</b>	
<i>Schools often have space that is not being fully used both during the day and on evenings and weekends. What ways do you think available space in schools should be used by the local community? Select all that apply.</i>	
	<b>% (n = 2,161)</b>
Community sports teams	73%
Daycares	70%
Youth drop-in centres	70%
Health promotion programming	62%
Cultural events	59%
Seniors' centres	39%
Don't know/no response	1%

Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; therefore, column will sum to more than 100%. Not all categories are shown.

<b>Table 26: Satisfaction with sports and other after-school programming</b>	
<i>How satisfied are you with the sports and other after-school programming available in schools in your area?</i>	
	<b>% (n = 2,161)</b>
Very satisfied	18%
Somewhat satisfied	41%
Somewhat dissatisfied	17%
Very dissatisfied	8%
This isn't a priority for me	16%
No response	1%

Note: Column may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 27: Involvement in community environmental projects**

*Some people say that schools should play a greater role in community projects as a way to contribute to the community and teach students about citizenship. One way to do this could be through school involvement in green community projects. Which of the following roles would you like to see schools play in regard to community environmental projects? Select all that apply.*

	<b>% (n = 2,161)</b>
Be involved in community clean-ups	78%
Plant community gardens	69%
Set up recycling programs	68%
Create energy efficiency projects	52%
Some other type of environmental project	45%
None of the above	7%
Don't know/no response	4%
Note: Respondents could choose more than one option; therefore, column will sum to more than 100%.	