



Education

Deputy Minister

Room 162, Legislative Building, Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8

October 2019

To: Superintendents of School Divisions
Principals of Funded Independent Schools
Directors of Adult Learning Centres

Dear Colleagues:

Manitoba Education is pleased to announce a partnership with Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Corporation to make a new online Learning Management System available to Manitoba learners and educators. The transition from the current system, Blackboard Learn, to D2L's Brightspace will unfold over the course of the 2019/20 school year. Full implementation will take effect July 1, 2020.

The new system will house online distance learning Independent Study Option (ISO) courses, Web-Based Courses, and will be an educational tool available to Manitoba teachers. The new system can be used in a variety of ways:

- in classroom settings,
- to teach students outside the school or classroom settings, and/or
- a blend of the two options.

Teachers can use Brightspace's interactive and collaborative tools to create innovative and engaging learning experiences, as well as post content and lessons accessible to students outside of the traditional classroom and school day. The communication tools allow students to interact with other students, locally or even globally, within the system's environment. The tools can also facilitate communication among learning institutions, students, and families.

Brightspace is the system used by the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Red River College, and University College of the North. By partnering with D2L, Manitoba Education is positioning students to be comfortable learning in this platform and to be prepared for the post-secondary learning environment.

Additional information regarding the transition to Brightspace by D2L will be made available on www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/dl/index.html. I encourage you to visit the website for updates. Brightspace training sessions will be available in the spring of 2020 through the Workshop Registration System <https://web36.gov.mb.ca/workshops/PI?action=Start> and by request.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Grant Doak

- c. Chairs of School Boards
Royce Hollier, President, Manitoba Association of Educational Technology Leaders
Leah Obach, President, Manitoba Association of Computing Educators
Lorne Keeper, Executive Director, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
Tom Tarrant, Principal, InformNet
Steven Williams, Teacher Mediated Option Principal, The Pine Creek School Division