

# INTRODUCTION

## Middle Years Education

Middle Years students, at 10- to 15-years-old, are undergoing the most rapid intellectual and developmental changes of their lives. Teachers and school leaders need to be well prepared to provide these young adolescents with a safe, stimulating, and supportive learning environment, as well as organizational structures that promote high expectations, collaboration, and continual learning.

Through a positive attitude to learning, Middle Years students develop competencies in language and literacy skills; thinking and problem-solving skills; social and emotional development; independence; creativity; knowledge and conceptual development; character building; and the skills of active, responsible citizenship.

The provincial curricula are clearly designed to meet these unique characteristics and learning needs of Middle Years students. Integrating curricula and differentiating instruction will further assist in meeting diverse student needs.

## Preface

School leaders in Middle Years schools are often faced with the daunting task of reading, understanding, and remembering all of the numerous curricula for each grade level. Having access to immediate curricular information is a necessary tool for a busy school leader.

Recognizing the need to provide school leaders with a summary of the various curricula, the Council of School Leaders (COSL) and Manitoba Education undertook to write a resource guide for school leaders.

## Purpose

This concise guide to the curricula provides school leaders with a quick overview or summary of curricular information and outcomes. This information can be used as a springboard for curriculum-related discussions, but it is not intended to provide an in-depth view of any curricula.

This guide to curricula is intended primarily for use by school leaders, but other professionals may also find it useful.

## Content

This guide contains the following sections:

- **Compulsory Subject Areas** are listed alphabetically. For each compulsory subject area mentioned, you will find a short introduction, a conceptual framework, information pertinent to that specific subject, and general learning outcomes. A brief description of the content of a given grade is presented in the grade overview.
- **Optional Subject Areas** are listed alphabetically. For each optional subject area mentioned, you will find a short introduction, information pertinent to that specific subject, and a list of relevant resources.
- **Elements Integrated into the Curriculum** are listed alphabetically. In addition to providing the requisite curriculum components, curriculum documents also incorporate several elements. Some of the most recent documents pertaining to elements integrated into the curriculum are highlighted in the guide.

*For more information on a specific subject, please refer to the full curriculum document.*