



**MINISTER
OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Room 168
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
R3C 0V8

July 2017

To: School Board Chairs
Superintendents of School Divisions
Principals of Funded Independent Schools

Dear Colleagues:

RE: High School Graduation Requirements for International Students

Each year, Manitoba welcomes many international students to the Manitoba public and funded independent school systems. Some of these students attend Manitoba schools primarily to upgrade their language skills in one of Canada's two official languages, or to benefit from a cross-cultural experience. Many more, though, are attending Manitoba schools with the goal of earning a Manitoba High School Diploma. While some international students begin their studies in a Manitoba school at the start of Grade 9, others may transfer to a Manitoba school at subsequent grade levels.

The attached *Manitoba Graduation Requirements for Students Presenting Non-Canadian Transcripts for Credit Towards a Manitoba High School Diploma* reflects new policy effective September 1, 2017. It is designed to help international students succeed in Manitoba. The policy is also available online at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/policy/grad_require.html.

The new policy will assist students in the adequate preparation for post-secondary education and help ensure competency in English or French of international students. The new policy limits the number of high school courses that may be credited through challenge or equivalency assessments, and requires international students to earn a minimum of five specified credits over a minimum of two semesters to obtain the English Program High School Diploma, or six specified credits over a minimum of two semesters to obtain the Français or French Immersion High School Diploma. To support schools in its application, this document contains a definition of "international student" in alignment with the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada policy for temporary residents and the department's *Funding for Temporary Residents Policy*.

Please arrange for this information to be shared with appropriate school personnel and parents/guardians of international students who are studying in your school system.

Should you have any questions, please contact one of the following individuals:

Français/ French Immersion Programs

Michelle Marchildon

Tel: 204-945-6927

Email: michelle.marchildon@gov.mb.ca

English Program

Donna Smith

Tel: 204-945-4324

Email: donna.smith@gov.mb.ca

Thank you for your efforts in providing a quality educational experience for international students.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
IAN WISHART

Ian Wishart
Minister
Education and Training

Attachment

- c. Michelle Marchildon, Education and Training
Donna Smith, Education and Training