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# ***WORKING TOGETHER***

## *A Handbook for Parents of Children with Special Needs in School*

**2004**

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

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This handbook for parents will be posted on the Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth website at <<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/specedu/documents.html>>.

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Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC)

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## PREAMBLE

Parents, along with educators and Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, share a common goal:

*Our goal is to ensure that children with special needs benefit from an educational experience that includes quality learning opportunities with expectations that consider each child's individual needs.*

In Manitoba, we are committed to the following philosophy of inclusion as our guiding principle:

*Inclusion is a way of thinking and acting that allows every individual to feel accepted, valued, and safe. An inclusive community consciously evolves to meet the changing needs of its members. Through recognition and support, an inclusive community provides meaningful involvement and equal access to the benefits of citizenship.*

*In Manitoba, we embrace inclusion as a means of enhancing the well-being of every member of the community. By working together, we strengthen our capacity to provide the foundation for a richer future for all of us.*

This philosophy of inclusion, adopted by the Department in 2001, is reflected in the development and content of *Working Together: A Handbook for Parents of Children with Special Needs in School*. Throughout the process of developing this handbook, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth worked in partnership with the Student Services Administrators' Association of Manitoba and in consultation with parents across the province.

“ In this resource, the term ‘parents’ refers to both parents and guardians and is used with the recognition that in some cases only one parent may be involved in a child’s education. ”

This handbook emphasizes the diverse and changing learning needs of students with special needs. As well as offering support and encouragement to you as parents and families of students with special needs, this resource describes some of the services and activities that might be used to meet individual student needs at school. It also includes practical information and strategies for helping your child make successful transitions, for enhancing your role on your child’s school team, and for staying informed.

Research tells us that children do better in school when their parents and families are involved in their education; this is especially important when a child has special needs. This parent handbook is designed to assist you throughout the years that your child attends school in Manitoba.

## Notes