

Deputy Minister

Room 162, Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8
www.edu.gov.mb.ca

February 28, 2024

To: Superintendents of School Divisions
Principals of Funded Independent Schools
Manitoba School for the Deaf

Dear Colleagues:

A robust and effective Provincial Assessment Program is an essential foundation of a strong Kindergarten to grade 12 education system where every student is supported in their learning and prepared for the challenges of the future. To ensure that Manitoba's Provincial Assessment Program is aligned with evolving best practices, supports student learning and well-being, and is responsive to the needs of the education system, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning is initiating a comprehensive review and redevelopment of the program.

To support the redevelopment of the Provincial Assessment Program, Grade 12 Provincial Tests and the Grade 10 Provincial Evaluation will be halted effective the 2024-2025 school year. Implementation of 2023-2024 assessments will continue as planned for the duration of the current school year.

The following goals and objectives will guide the redevelopment of the Provincial Assessment Program:

- Transitioning provincial assessments to an online platform.
- Aligning the program with emerging best practices in assessment.
- Ensuring that assessments in early, middle and senior years are integrated and aligned.
- Strengthening system-level assessment data needed to meaningfully track cohorts of students from Kindergarten through senior years.
- Working in partnership with education stakeholders to ensure the program provides data to inform teacher practice and system-level policy and decision-making that supports student learning.

It is anticipated that the comprehensive redevelopment of the Provincial Assessment Program will take multiple years. Please note that during this time, the Grade 3/4 and 7/8 formative assessments will continue, along with data collection for Grade 9 English Language Arts and Mathematics credit attainment and graduation rates. Ongoing collection of this data will ensure that the system can continue to identify trends and inform decisions to support student learning during this interim period. Manitoba will also continue to participate in pan-Canadian and international assessments.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning is committed to working in partnership with education stakeholders to redevelop a robust Provincial Assessment Program that will support student learning from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support as we begin the redevelopment process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian O'Leary".

Brian O'Leary
Deputy Minister
Education and
Early Childhood Learning

- c. Board Chairs, School Divisions
Manitoba Association of School Superintendents
Manitoba School Boards Association
Manitoba Teachers' Society