

Education



Public Schools

There are two basic levels for school. Children go to elementary school and youth go to secondary school. Children go to Kindergarten (pre-school) first. Then, they go to elementary school (grades 1 to 6). Youth then go to secondary or middle school (grades 7 to 8). Finally, they go to high school (grades 9 to 12).

Schools generally run from September to June. Summer holidays are in July and August. If you work or study, you need to plan activities or childcare for your children in July and August.

Compulsory School Age

Your children must attend school when they are seven years old. If they are six years old when school starts in September, but will turn seven years of age before December 31, they go to school when they are six. They must stay in school until the age of 18.

If you are a parent or legal guardian of a child of between the ages of 7 and 18, you must send them to school. Students are also responsible for attending school and classes regularly. They must be on time and complete their assignments and other school work.

If your children are going to school for the first time, here is some important information.

- You must contact your local school division. You can search for Manitoba schools here: https://web36.gov.mb.ca/school/school?action=top_page.
- The school will assess your children and decide their grade level.
- If your child needs help with English, your school can help with language support.
- You must show documents when you enroll your child in school. They might ask for a birth certificate, proof of guardianship or custody, proof of residency, record of immunizations, common application and the name of an emergency contact.
- Learn about public schools at Ministry of Education: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/>



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Newcomer Parent Guides

Newcomer Parent Guides are for families who are new to Canada. They can teach you about the Manitoba Education System. The guides give you information about Kindergarten to Grade 12 in Manitoba. You can also find information on how to register for school. The guides also have helpful checklists and questions you can use to communicate with teachers and school administrators.

- **Overview** – What can I expect from Manitoba schools?
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/docs/newcomer_parent_overview.pdf
- **Register** – How do I register my child in school?
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/docs/newcomer_parent_registration.pdf
- **At School** – As a parent, what can I expect for my child at school?
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/docs/newcomer_parent_school.pdf
- **Kindergarten** – What can my child expect in Kindergarten?
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/docs/newcomer_parent_kindergarten.pdf
- **Grades 1 to 12** – What can my child expect in the classroom?
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/docs/newcomer_parent_k-12.pdf
- **Guides in French:**
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/m12/ecoles-mb/fem.html#arrivants>

Manitoba School Divisions and Districts

In Manitoba, there are five regions:

- Central
 - Northern/Remote
 - Parkland/Westman
 - Southeast/Interlake
 - Winnipeg
- More information at Manitoba Department of Education:
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/schooldivmap.html>
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/sb_contacts.html

Manitoba has four school programs:

- English Program
- French Immersion Program
- Français Program
- Senior Years Technology Education Program (available for the English, French Immersion, and Français Programs)

Languages of Instruction

English and French are the languages of instruction in Manitoba. If you want a school that uses French as the language of instruction, there are two different programs:

- French Immersion Program – Choose this program if French is your child's second language.
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/fr_imm_pr.html
 - Français Program – Choose this program if French is a first language or the language you use at home. Many parents who are native French-speakers use this option.
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/m12/progetu/prog-fr.html> (French only)
- Learn more about French schools at the Ministry of Education:
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/schools/fr_imm.html

Special Needs Education

Schools have programs for children who have special needs. For example they might need extra support for their behavioural, communication, intellectual or physical needs. These programs help them have a better school experience. Schools also support students with learning disabilities.

- Learn more at the Ministry of Education:
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/parent/>
http://www.manitoba.ca/fs/imd/edu_progr.html