

# INFORMATION FOR INDIGENOUS FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

On March 15th, 2021, Manitoba Education announced significant changes to the education system in Manitoba. **Better Education Starts Today: Putting Students First** was developed in response to the Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education and incorporates the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **Better Education Starts Today** strategy has a vision that Indigenous students will see themselves reflected in the spaces and in the texts they interact with by infusing culturally and evidence-informed strategies that embed Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we are all called upon to take the necessary steps to close the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Our strategy is committed to this by creating pathways for Indigenous students to realize their potential.

## HOW WE WILL GET THERE

### Working Together for Indigenous Student Success

- ✓ Put into action an Indigenous Inclusion Strategy in partnership with the Indigenous Inclusion Advisory Council to strengthen pathways to success for Indigenous students.
- ✓ Create an Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools Initiative to support teachers and students and bring more Indigenous teachings into the classroom and our school communities.
- ✓ Work with First Nations partners to enhance technology education and technical vocational facilities, as well as sharing information to improve student transitions between on-reserve and off-reserve schools.

### An Indigenous Presence and History

- ✓ Enhance age-appropriate teaching on residential schools, Treaties and Indigenous peoples' historical and contemporary contributions.
- ✓ Include Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing in classrooms and texts so Indigenous students see themselves in those spaces.

### Supports for Students and Families

- ✓ Work with partners to respond to the root causes of absenteeism, including supporting parents and caregivers, to improve student attendance.
- ✓ Strengthen communication with parents and caregivers around curriculum and learning outcomes to help them be informed and active partners.

## Monitoring Progress and Planning for Success

- ✓ Regularly monitor and report on Indigenous student achievement data as part of provincial reporting.
- ✓ Ensure principals take concrete actions to improve Indigenous student achievement and include them in their annual school plans.

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

We invite Indigenous Elders/Knowledge Keepers, educators, parents, leaders, organizations and other partners to share their perspectives and get involved in improving Manitoba's education system.

- ✓ Indigenous community members are urged to participate in the consultation process.
- ✓ Details on consultation topics and opportunities to participate will be shared publicly in early April.
- ✓ A website has been set up for regular updates. Please check back often.  
The site is [www.bettereducationmb.ca](http://www.bettereducationmb.ca)
- ✓ To reach out to the Education Transformation team, please email [edutransformation@gov.mb.ca](mailto:edutransformation@gov.mb.ca)

