

TASK FORCE ON POVERTY AND EDUCATION TERMS OF REFERENCE (DRAFT*)

MANDATE

The Task Force on Poverty and Education, in connection with the Poverty Reduction Strategy, will examine the linkages between poverty and education, and will support the implementation of strategies to improve social inclusion and outcomes for all students, particularly those who are living with low income. The task force brings together intersectoral partners to form joint solutions.

MEMBERSHIP

A member of the Poverty Reduction Committee and an education expert will co-chair the task force. The task force will be composed of up to 25 members.

Selected through a targeted direct outreach, members will include key stakeholders who have expertise in issues related to poverty and/or education and who can inform how poverty affects school outcomes.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The key responsibilities of this task force are

- to address joint poverty and education issues in order to contribute to overall poverty reduction in Manitoba
- to put forth advice on areas of action to the Poverty Reduction Committee

These recommendations will work to holistically support the needs of children and youth and respond to the impacts of poverty on learning. The advice on areas for action will be considered and built into the work and planning of the Poverty Reduction Committee.

Areas of initial focus for the task force may include

- food access and security and a universal meal program
- access to technology, transportation, and other socio-economic barriers as impediments to participation
- outcomes and continuity of education for children in care

* Terms of Reference pending review and approval from the Task Force

TIMELINE

September 2021: The first bi-monthly meeting of the task force will be held.

October 2022: Areas of action will be shared with the Poverty Reduction Committee.

The task force is temporary and designed to meet the immediate needs identified in the BEST strategy. However, there will be consideration to maintain the task force on a longer term as a standing item on the Manitoba Poverty Reduction Committee agenda.

MEETINGS

The task force will operate for approximately 18 months, at which point its activities will be reviewed to determine whether it will conclude, be extended, or renewed.

The task force shall hold meetings at the call of the co-chairs. It is anticipated that virtual meetings will be held bi-monthly. The schedule may change from time to time in order to meet the work plan and accomplish the tasks as outlined.