

MAPC Position Statement #1
Approved 2013
Opting Out of Provincial Curriculum

MAPC supports an effective consultation process with parents on any matters pertaining to education and parental involvement. MAPC understands the right of every child in Manitoba to receive a high quality and inclusive publicly funded education. MAPC also understands the right and duty of parents to determine what is in the best interest of their child in any given situation – including the teaching of potentially sensitive subject matter which may impact their cultural, social, or religious philosophies.

The MAPC Advocacy Project has provided direction and support to parents who have chosen to opt out of both curricula such as Math, English, or History as well as sensitive subjects such as human sexuality or evolution theories. These decisions are often made due to concerns regarding the supports and instruction provided which could not be resolved in a manner which suited the student, family, and education community. These decisions are made by parents after careful thought and consideration of the potential impacts which may be experienced by their child.

Respectful and collaborative dialogue between families and school teams often address concerns parents may have concerning Manitoba curricula, but sometimes the challenge is too great for a family to overcome and other avenues need to be explored.

THEREFORE, we respectfully request that Manitoba Education continue honouring the ability of families to choose to opt out of curricula. We also request that schools and school divisions continue to work respectfully and collaboratively with families to address concerns and explore possible solutions prior to such decisions being made.

Rationale:

MAPC would like to be able to share this position, as representative of its members, with our education partners, the Minister of Education, and the media.