

Providing Equitable Access to Lunch Hour Supervision Programs Provided by Manitoba School Divisions

Background

Each school division has its own policy/budget rationale for either including or excluding lunch hour program management and/or supervision within the school division budget. If the division budget does not provide for lunch hour program supervision management, the parents are responsible for providing the lunch hour supervision, either individually or as a co-ordinated program.

Introduction Statement

Access to lunch hour supervision programs provided by a school division is inequitable in Manitoba, depending on location of residency. If no school division program is offered, the capacity to delivery lunch programs by parents varies among neighbourhoods for a variety of reasons, such as parent volunteer time available, parent skill capacity for program management/delivery, low income challenges, language barriers, etc. The ability for parents to pursue employment and education opportunities is directly affected by the availability of lunch programs in the school.

Access to a lunch hour supervision program provided by a school division should be available to every family in Manitoba.

Action Requests

That the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils request of the Minister of Education and Training to require all school divisions within Manitoba to provide lunch supervision program management to ensure equitable access for all families in Manitoba. Each school division can design its individual program to meet its budget and policy needs (eg. Providing teachers with a lunch break, collecting parent fees as needed to support costs), but the responsibility of delivering the lunch hour supervision program would rest with the school division, not the parents.

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