

COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Circling Star - Recommendation 2

Recommendation Summary: Conduct a review and develop a province-wide strategy to limit exclusionary practices (school suspensions and expulsions).

Primary Public Body: Manitoba Education

3. The review and strategy should be disciplinary alternatives that are:

- a. evidence-based,
- b. in line with the best interests of the child and
- c. respect the right of children and youth to education

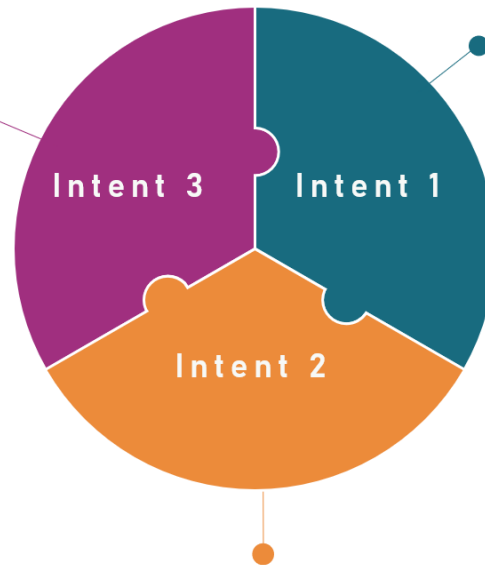
Content of policy is currently unknown.

Outstanding Action: Finalize and release the policy directive that is in development.

1. Conduct a review of the current use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions

A review of the use of suspensions and expulsions has not yet taken place. Attempts at data collection have been made with the upcoming policy directive intended to correct data variation across the province.

Outstanding Action: A review has not yet been completed.



2. Develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices except in situations of imminent safety risk

A policy is in the process of being developed by the Student Services Inclusive Education Committee, as directed by a priority action of the BEST (Better Education Starts Today) strategy. Relevant stakeholders have been consulted.

Outstanding Action: Finalize and release the policy directive that is in development.

COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION



Actions taken implement part of the recommendation. Development and release of identified policy directive, and completion of a review of the issue will assist in reaching full compliance.

Recommendation Compliance Summary

This form details the assessment of compliance with recommendations made under Section 27 and Section 31 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*. MACY assesses recommendations for compliance once a year but receives updates from the public bodies every six months.

1. Recommendation Information	
Report Names:	Documenting the Decline: The Dangerous Space Between Good Intentions and Meaningful Interventions
Date Released:	10/19/2018
Full Recommendation: (including details)	<p>Recommendation Two: The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that the Department of Education and Training (now Manitoba Education) through Healthy Child Manitoba (HCM) (now the Social Innovation Office), and with participation from all school divisions, conduct an urgent review of the current use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, and develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices, except in situations of imminent safety risk to students and staff. This review and strategy should provide evidence-informed disciplinary alternatives that are in line with the best interests of the child and respect the right of children and youth to education.</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department of Education and Training (now Manitoba Education) will develop quality assurance and information management processes to: (1) define “imminent safety risk to students and staff”, (2) assess the prevalence, duration, and nature of school suspensions and expulsions in Manitoba, (3) analyze and ensure compliance with standards and best practices, (4) provide school boards with the necessary information to develop strategies to reduce and end school suspensions and exclusionary practices, and evaluate initiatives. Changes should be data-informed and made considering the unique dynamics in Manitoba. • The Department of Education and Training (now Manitoba Education) will implement province-wide and evidence-informed suspension and exclusion prevention policies and procedures for Manitoba schools. This is to then, in turn, inform training for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School division training for teachers, principals, and superintendents; ○ Mentorship programs; and, ○ Alternative approaches to suspension
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<p>The intents of the recommendation are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a review of the current use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. 2. Develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce and phase-out

	<p>exclusionary practices except in situations of imminent safety risk.</p> <p>3. The review and strategy should provide disciplinary alternatives that are: evidence-based, in line with the best interests of the child, and respect the right of children and youth to education.</p>
Issue:	Suspensions and Expulsions
Primary Department:	Manitoba Education
Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:	May 26, 2021
	June 30, 2020
	December 31, 2019
	June 27, 2019
	April 23, 2019
2. Compliance Determination	
Partially Compliant 0.50	Actions taken only implement part of the recommendation. Important requirements have been met and the recommendation is acted upon, however, deficiencies remain.
Self-Assessment	Largely Compliant
Previous Compliance Determination	Limitedly Compliant
3. Rationale for Determination	
<i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	
<p>Intent 1: Conduct a review of the current use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions.</p> <p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The collection of data relating to the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions will be part of the policy directive currently in development to understand the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. Data collection was attempted in 2020. Responses from school divisions varied due to different means of collecting information and non-consistent definitions of school suspensions or expulsions which affected the ability to understand. The policy directive intends to correct this variation and align data-tracking of this issue across school divisions. Since the release of the <i>Better Education Starts Today</i> strategy, the focus of addressing this recommendation has shifted to being accounted for in priority action 3.2 of the strategy, which states. “Review and update Manitoba’s Provincial Code of Conduct: Appropriate Interventions and Disciplinary Consequences (2017) and develop a policy on the use of exclusionary practices (i.e., seclusion, suspension, and expulsion) for all students.” It was identified that the work of the group mentioned in the previous response from June 2020, is no longer moving forward. The template for reporting on suspensions, expulsions, and absenteeism did not get developed or put into use in Manitoba schools. The working group mentioned in June 2020 has been disbanded and is no longer meeting. <p>2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Response from MACY-RAP indicated a commitment to achieving the intent of the recommendation. An established working group received feedback from school divisions related to how the divisions are tracking suspension and chronic absenteeism. The information is intended to form the basis of a template that can be used universally across school divisions to report on suspension and chronic absenteeism rates. The data collected are intended to provide an evidence base to inform strategies to identify trends and reduce the use of suspensions. Work on this initiative will resume in the fall of 2020 with the return to in-class instruction. 	

- The examination on how school divisions track suspensions and chronic absenteeism and the use of a single tracking forms is a promising and necessary first step for reviewing the current use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. A review of the use of suspensions and chronic absenteeism, however, is not yet completed.

Intent 2: Develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices except in situations of imminent safety risk.

2021

- Based on the directives included in *Better Education Starts Today*, the development and writing of a new provincial policy directive on the use of exclusionary practices is under way. The Student Services Inclusive Education Committee has been tasked with completing this work. Manitoba Education recently released a policy directive on Seclusion, and it is intended for the exclusionary practice policy directive to follow the same format. A stakeholder presentation was provided that sought feedback on what the content and format should look like for such a policy directive.
- Policy directives are used by Manitoba Education to identify to school divisions and schools what policies they should have in place, and what those policies should include. It is the expectation that all schools update existing policies or create new policies to be in line with a policy directive. A mechanism for understanding whether school divisions and schools have appropriate policies in place is part of the review and report structure undertaken by the Inclusion Support Branch of Manitoba Education.
- The fulfillment of this intent will be based upon the content of the policy directive currently in-development. Significant work has been shifted towards stakeholder engagement and creating a committee to develop this policy.

2020

- As of yet, work on a province-wide strategy has not been developed, and activities are focused on the development of reliable data on chronic absenteeism and suspensions.

Intent 3: The review and strategy should be disciplinary alternatives that are: evidence-based, in line with the best interests of the child, and respect the right of children and youth to education.

2021

- The fulfillment of this intent will be based upon the content of the policy directive currently in-development.

2020

- At the time of the release of the 2020 compliance report, a strategy had not been developed because the public body was collecting data.

Analysis Summary: There have been promising steps in the implementation of this recommendation, including the initiation of writing a policy directive on the use of exclusionary practices in Manitoba schools. To date, however, since there has been no information provided on the specific content of the policy directive, actions taken only partially fulfill requirements, resulting in a partially compliant status determination.