

Tina Fontaine	Recommendation One	Reported Status: (not reported)
Report Sent: March 12, 2019	Public Body: Manitoba Education and Training	

Recommendation One:

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Education and Training ensure its recently established *Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education* review the measurement of and response to absenteeism across Manitoba. It is further recommended that the Commission review the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, with the goal of developing 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 practices that are in line with the best interests of the child and respect the right to education for children and youth.

DETAILS:

- The Commission to identify how school divisions can be resourced with the capacity to measure, assess, and respond to the underlying causes of school absenteeism. Building and sustaining relationships with students who are experiencing absenteeism and their families.
- Manitoba Education and Training continue efforts to improve student attendance by increasing public awareness of the right to education, identifying improvements to communication with parents and guardians around absenteeism, and to provide transparent information to the public about suspensions and expulsions.

Response from the Manitoba Government on June 27, 2019:

Summary of activities completed since report was released

The minister of Education and Training shared this recommendation with the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education in April 2019.

(continued below)

Analysis of Manitoba Government’s Response by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:

Activities Completed:

- The Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education was announced on January 23, 2019. This commission is expected to provide the Minister of Education and Training with a report that includes findings and recommendations by February 2020. Issues to consider include the impact of absenteeism and suspensions.
- The Minister of Education and Training has asked the Commission to consider this recommendation as part of the review of Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Level of Compliance

This response indicates that the implementation of this recommendation and its details is in early stages.

Analysis of Response

- To be addressed in the short term*:
 - Status of implementation
 - Information indicating a timeline for implementation

*On September 30, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate sent a letter to the members of the government’s MACY-RAP committee and working group requesting additional information regarding the government’s progress on recommendations made by the Advocate. The Advocate communicated to the government representatives short-term questions for information that could be provided quickly. Additionally, the Advocate sent long-term questions for the government to address in future progress reports. The questions are designed to seek clarification on activities, seek evidence or documentation to support the activities, or to determine how the government’s responses are meeting the intent of the recommendations made by the Advocate. All of this information will be used by the Advocate to determine the levels of compliance with implementation, in accordance with s.11(1)(d), s.30(2)(d), and s.30(4), of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*.