

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 5-2025

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board

December 1, 2025

The Inclusive Education Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee stated that the students, staff and communities of Winnipeg School Division are committed to truth and reconciliation through building relationships with Mother Earth, the original peoples of this land and the stories that bring us together. We acknowledge the place in which we gather is on Treaty 1 territory, the homeland of the Red River Métis and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak and Dakota Oyate Peoples.

2. WSD Staffing Ratios

At a previous meeting the Committee discussed staffing ratios and requested that additional information be provided on the allocation of staffing support for each school for discussion at the next meeting.

The Assistant Superintendent of Student-Centred Services and the Divisional Principal were in attendance and provided an overview of staffing ratios.

The Committee was informed that the 2025/2026 budget for WSD is \$525,517,807 with approximately 25 percent of that budget being allocated towards student-centered services. The Committee was also informed that WSD has an Adult to Student Ratio of 1:8, an EA to Student Ratio of 1:21 and a Teacher to Pupil Ratio of 1:14, which are some of the best ratios in Manitoba. The average class size for kindergarten to Grade 3 is 18 students. The Committee was informed that with 119 clinicians, WSD has one of the best retention rates for clinicians and currently there is only one vacant position.

The Committee was informed that annually the Student-Centered Services team works with each school to determine the needs of the students registered and how to provide equitable support. WSD also has a sub-set of Educational Assistants who are not assigned to specific schools which allows flexibility to provide additional supports for students as needed throughout the school year.

The Committee discussed the importance of teachers, clinicians and EA's working together to mentor and learn from each other to provide the best support to students and families. The Committee also discussed the importance of professional development at all staffing levels to understand learning challenges, different diagnosis, and apply best practices to ensure students are receiving the support required. The Committee requested that professional learning for teachers and EA's be added to a future agenda for review.

The Committee discussed the importance of advocating for students and reviewed the Student-Centered Services Divisional Supports and Interdisciplinary Family of Schools Teams. The Committee was informed that the Student-Centred Services Model ensures that students, parents and classroom teachers are surrounded by various levels to support every student as an individual, and the ability to recognize and value diverse abilities, experiences and needs.

The Committee was informed that families are encouraged to advocate for their students by reviewing the supports currently available.

The Committee agreed that schools are supporting needs of students with the resources available and noted that the province needs to increase funding and supports available to support students.

The Committee discussed the shortage of speech and language pathologists in Manitoba and the importance of advocating for a training center to be established in Manitoba. The Committee suggested that Trustees Heppner and Chambers write a letter to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning advocating for a training center and funding for additional speech and language therapists for schools.

The Committee also discussed the valuable information shared at a presentation from a previous meeting regarding Disability Tax Credits and requested that the Canada Revenue Agency be invited to attend a future meeting prior to the deadline to file Revenue Canada Income Tax.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Chambers
Committee Chair

In Attendance:

Trustees: R. Chambers, K. Heppner, A. Evangelista (regrets)

Administration: L. Bunkowsky, J. Heater, G. McAlpine, T. Howard (Board & Community Liaison Office Administrative Assistant)

Members: Andrew Mynarski School, Brock Corydon School, Clifton School, Garden Grove School, Gladstone School, Gordon Bell School, J.B. Mitchell School, Lord Nelson School, Lord Roberts School, Luxton School, Robertson School.