

NEWCOMER EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2026

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

January 15, 2026

Your Ad Hoc Committee on Newcomer Education reports as follows:

1. Land Acknowledgment

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. Diversity Institute

Nancy Mitchell from the Diversity Institute of Toronto was in attendance to provide an overview of the role in supporting the Board of Trustees to conduct an equity review of programs and services being provided to families.

The Committee was informed that WSD and the Diversity Institute (DI) are working on a project to understand the experiences of students and families within the school system with the key areas focusing on:

- Student learning
- Supports like transportation, sports and arts, language needs, and more
- Experiences with conflict and bullying
- Staff and teacher diversity
- Family and guardian engagement with schools.

The Committee was informed that DI will prepare a report on strengths and opportunities for improvement in programs and or services bring provided to support families.

The Committee was invited by Diversity Institute to meet with them to provide their input by contacting Nancy Mitchell at n.mitchell@torontomu.ca between January 16 and January 28, 2026.

3. Conflict Resolution

At a meeting held on October 16, 2025, Committee members requested that Conflict Resolution be added to the Agenda for discussion.

The Committee was informed that problems can arise but can be solved with open discussion. The Committee was informed that our schools are a community and everyone is part of making it a safe and welcoming environment.

The Committee was informed that if they have a concern they should speak to the teacher first and/or principal. If you still have a concern you may contact the Superintendents' office. The Committee was informed that if the concern has not been resolved, families can contact the Board and Community Liaison Officer who will work with you and the Board of Trustees to find a solution.

The Committee was provided a copy of the process to resolve conflict in schools that is based on the Code of Conduct and Safe Schools Policy.

The Committee was informed that WSD has also approved a new policy that provides opportunities for schools and families to use restorative practices to resolve matters. The Committee was informed that WSD uses meaningful strategies to resolve conflict using prevention/intervention strategies.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members may contact their Intercultural Support Workers to request assistance if language is a barrier to assist with translation.

4. Student Registration

At a meeting held on October 16, 2025, Committee members requested that Student Registration be added to the Agenda for discussion.

The Committee was informed that WSD requires the following documentation for registering students in school:

For all students

- Proof of residency — original document that includes your name and current address (e.g., bank statement, utility bill, property tax assessment, rental/lease agreement)
- Proof of student's age — original copy of birth certificate or passport
- Manitoba Health Card
- Previous school documents — latest report card for Grade 1 to 8 students. High school transcripts for Grade 9 to 12 students (if applicable)
- Medical diagnosis documents for students needing additional support (if applicable)
- Province of Manitoba Children in Care of Form (if applicable)
- Court order documents for custody-related concerns (if applicable)

Students that are new to Canada or temporary residents must also provide

- Original copy of student's birth certificate
- Proof of student's I.D. — original copy of passport
- Proof of parent's I.D. — original copy of passport
- Proof of student's residency or entry in Canada (e.g., study permit, work permit, visitor record)
- Proof of parents' residency — including one of the following:
 - Proof of Permanent Residency
 - Valid study permit and proof of study (e.g., letter of enrolment stating program details, receipt stating program details)
 - Valid work permit and proof of employment (e.g., job offer letter or pay stub)

The Committee was informed that information can be found on the Winnipeg School Division website under [Student Registration](#). The Committee was informed that students are registered at their catchment area school.

The Committee was informed that students who wish to register at a school other than their home school, may submit a school of Choice Form to the Division.

The Committee expressed concern that newcomer students are overlooked for sports teams because they are new students to the school. The Committee was informed that parents should reach out to the teachers to express interest and to contact the principal for assistance. The Committee was informed that families can also contact their Assistant Superintendent.

The Committee expressed concerns that due to the catchment borders they are not allowed to attend the closest school as a result of being at the cusp of their neighbourhood. The Committee also shared that they have requested transportation services only to be declined as they do not meet the 1.6km criteria even though they live at the edge of their catchment school. The Committee was informed that families are encouraged to attend their catchment schools and then apply for a School of Choice under special circumstances to the Superintendent Department for review and approval.

5. Reporting Bullying

At a meeting held on October 16, 2025, Committee members requested that Reporting Bullying be added to the Agenda for discussion.

The Committee received an outline on addressing Bullying in schools. The Committee was informed that Administration is in the process of updating the Fact Sheet to reflect current legislation practices, and resources and supports.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Evangelista
Committee Chair

In Attendance:

Trustees: A. Evangelista, D. Aviso, T. Kuly (regrets)
Administration: M. Rezai, D. Vo (Administrative Support)
Schools Represented: Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute, Dufferin School, Elmwood High School, Faraday School, Gladstone School, Gordon Bell High School, Hugh John Macdonald School, Lord Selkirk School, Mulvey School, École Secondaire Sisler High School, Sister MacNamara School, St. John's High School, Strathcona School, Technical Vocational High School, Tyndall Park School, École Victoria-Albert School, William Whyte School

Non-Voting/

Resource Members: A. Ahmed, C. Gautam, H. Ahmed, H. Paw, M. Sultani, N. Ourrhi, R. Kimani-Anderson, R. Hernandez, W. Fehler