



***Joint Statement of Benefits  
of  
Internationally Affiliated Schools  
offering the  
Manitoba Curriculum***

**PREAMBLE**

Manitoba works with partners overseas to make our excellent Kindergarten to Grade 12 curricula available to students in other countries. International schools that have applied to use the Manitoba curriculum and met our rigorous program requirements have thus become Manitoba-Affiliated Schools. The purpose of this document is to identify the accrued benefits of establishing Manitoba-Affiliated Schools.

Implementation of the Manitoba curriculum may occur in various ways, but for the most part, Manitoba's Affiliated Schools fall into two categories: those which offer the Manitoba curriculum exclusively and those which provide the Manitoba curriculum in a blended program taught concurrently with a local curriculum. In all cases, students that successfully meet the Manitoba course and testing requirements are eligible to receive a Manitoba diploma.

Manitoba conducts a detailed review and inspection of schools prior to affiliation and on an annual basis thereafter. In addition to liaising with schools on various administrative matters, Manitoba also provides support through the provision of professional development sessions to ensure success and integrity of the programming offered both with respect to what is taught and how it is taught.

Administration of Manitoba's Affiliated Schools – from identification to assessment, inspection, and maintaining the ongoing relationship – is managed by a working group comprised of staff from Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth and Manitoba Competitiveness, Training and Trade. Ultimate responsibility for the use of the curriculum in the Affiliated Schools rests with Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

**PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION**

There are three main principles upon which Manitoba considers granting limited permission to use its curriculum outside of Canada.

- 1) Preserving and promoting ***curricular integrity*** is the overriding concern in any arrangement made. Manitoba has invested a great deal of time, effort, and expertise into the development of an outstanding curricular model across the disciplines. It is imperative that its unique features and high standards be maintained not only to preserve its excellent reputation, but also to ensure that the children studying in the Affiliated Schools are fully exposed to the learning opportunities that our curriculum provides.

This applies equally to those instances where partners choose to offer a blended program where the Manitoba curriculum is taught in parallel to a local curriculum in order that both the local and Manitoba credential can be obtained. In such instances it must be ensured that the credibility of the blended program overall meets or exceeds all standards.

- 2) Any arrangement made to offer the Manitoba curriculum in an Affiliated School must be based on a demonstration of **mutual benefit** to Manitoba as a whole and the school and its students. Benefits may take many different forms, but their existence on both sides of the partnership ensures a greater commitment by all parties to maintain the ongoing success of the relationship.
- 3) Notwithstanding other benefits outlined herein, Manitoba must ensure that offering the Manitoba curriculum in this way is done on a **cost recovery** basis. Establishing and maintaining an Affiliated School results in many expenses that are incurred as they relate to staff time, travel, shipping, testing, and administration. Such costs should not be borne by the Government of Manitoba; there must be an arrangement with all Affiliated Schools to provide for a transparent transfer of funds to compensate for such expenses that would not otherwise be incurred by the Government. The recovery of real costs does not preclude Manitoba from charging additional fees for other international activities.

### **IDENTIFIED BENEFITS\***

The Government of Manitoba's practice of allowing international schools to use the Manitoba curriculum has a number of identified benefits, both direct and indirect, that are outlined below.

#### ***Benefits for Manitoba***

- ✓ Affiliated Schools are an opportunity to showcase the excellent work Manitoba is undertaking in the field of education. Overseas schools give Manitoba a greater profile among the faculty, staff, students and parents, as well as within the community and governmental officials. Although benefits are difficult to measure, the increased presence that occurs from having established schools, indirect benefits result as Manitoba's name and strong reputation become well-established in areas that might not otherwise have had contact. As such, Affiliated Schools increase Manitoba's positive global profile.
- ✓ Students and staff of Manitoba-Affiliated schools often spend many years being exposed to the Manitoba curriculum. If we ensure that such exposure is a positive and constructive experience, students and faculty become unofficial ambassadors for the province providing key word-of-mouth accounts about Manitoba. This results in varied and unforeseen ways well into the future.
- ✓ Establishing Manitoba Affiliated schools and maintaining an openness to consider further proposals provides the Government of Manitoba with a tangible and credible mechanism to demonstrate its willingness to project its international presence. In this regard, Manitoba's Affiliated Schools are physical proof of the government's commitment to international education and provide a valuable part of its "toolkit" to promote, create and foster education linkages around the world.
- ✓ Manitoba-Affiliated Schools provide universities and colleges with a unique, diverse and targeted audience of strong calibre, therefore high school students are predisposed to pursue post-secondary studies overseas. Students in Manitoba-Affiliated Schools have studied the Manitoba curriculum and are familiar with Manitoba and its benefits. Though

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\* This document provides a possible list of benefits that result from offering in Manitoba-Affiliated Schools. While some will be common to all schools, not all will be equally present in every school. The differences between schools will vary depending on structure, administration, philosophy, location, etc.

efforts must be made to ensure that we are able to attract a reasonable proportion of the graduates of Manitoba-Affiliated Schools to study in our province, the expansion of overseas schools will make promoting Manitoba a more cost-effective venture. Students that choose to study in Manitoba contribute to our institutions and communities not only through their tuition fees and other expenditures, but also academically and socially; some may even choose to immigrate to Manitoba.

- ✓ Affiliating with overseas schools also provides a mechanism for the Government of Manitoba to promote internationalization within the public service by providing its staff – inspectors, curriculum consultants, manager, and others – opportunities to take part in and be exposed to educational developments in an international context. In some cases this may involve visiting an affiliated school, in some cases it may mean comparing and contrasting curriculum content and approach, and in other cases it may be a re-examination of current practices from a more globally-informed perspective.
- ✓ Though currently run under a cost-recovery model, it may be possible in the future that administrative fees charged to the Affiliated Schools could increase above the cost-recovery threshold. While the collected fees are themselves of benefit, a more obvious advantage would be to reinvest additional funds to support other international education efforts throughout government, thereby stimulating greater activity and support. It also provides the government the opportunity to enact the kind of mechanism that is promoted to educational institutions, namely, that international education should be approached in a holistic manner with areas of profit (e.g. international student programs) supporting non-revenue-generating programs (e.g. student support services, exchange programs, etc.).

#### ***Benefits for Partners and Students***

- ✓ Students of Manitoba-Affiliated Schools acquire all the benefits of a sound, rigorous, student-centered curriculum that assists them in building the skills they need to succeed academically, professionally, and personally. Manitoba students regularly perform well in international testing; the same strong foundational learning can be made available to students around the world. Most importantly, it can be made available in a manner that is far more accessible to most than having to come to Manitoba to receive it.
- ✓ Students who wish to pursue post-secondary studies overseas are also provided with a transparent and equitable access to Manitoba's universities and colleges as they will be judged on the same basis as students in Manitoba. Furthermore, their Manitoba diploma makes them eligible for entrance scholarships on the same basis as Manitoba students. This is not an opportunity extended to any other international students at this time.
- ✓ School Partners (owners in most cases) have the opportunity to associate their schools with a high-quality Western-based education model which is in great demand in many countries. While there is a certain degree of prestige accrued to the school, its importance is in providing the Partner a key marketing advantage in differentiating and promoting their school in a bid to attract students and their parents.

#### ***Benefits for All***

- ✓ Manitoba-Affiliated Schools provide a unique opportunity to engage in teacher and student exchanges. In both cases, the schools provide the opportunity to gain cross-cultural and international exposure without sacrificing time due to loss of seniority (for teachers) or non-transferable study credits (for students). They also provide a higher degree of comfort for participants as the Government of Manitoba has not only inspected and approved the schools, but also have ongoing relationships and contacts with them, should any problem

arise. Student and faculty of our Affiliated Schools also have the opportunity to experience most of the very same benefits.

- ✓ Further to the above, Affiliated Schools can also be used as destinations for student teachers wishing to complete their practicum teaching requirements in an international environment. The feasibility of offering these practicum opportunities in Manitoba-Affiliated Schools is greater than in other schools where relationships do not yet exist. Informal discussions with the Deans of Manitoba's education faculties also suggest that, the demand for overseas practicum opportunities is increasing among Manitoba students and faculty. For Affiliated Schools, these enthusiastic teachers-in-training represent future pools of qualified and internationally-experienced Manitoba-certified teachers whom they may wish to recruit to teach in their schools.
- ✓ Working with international partners to establish Manitoba-Affiliated Schools also has a number of intangible and long-term benefits. For example, many of Manitoba's partners also have diverse interests outside the education sector. Developing strong relationships with these partners leads to beneficial cooperation in other areas as well, such as international trade or immigration. There can also be a significant "Halo Effect" from these ventures: the increased profile that Manitoba experiences from the presence of the Affiliated Schools may lead other potential partners to approach Manitoba about various opportunities in and out of the education sector. So while Affiliated Schools must be approached first and foremost with a view to ensuring curricular integrity, it is clear that the schools may not only be a means to an end, but also an important way of creating opportunity and showing Manitoba's commitment to global engagement.