



**THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION**  
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**BETTY EDEL**  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

December 20, 2022

The Honourable Jon Reyes, MLA  
Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration  
Room 156 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Reyes,

At a meeting held December 5, 2022, the Board of Trustees received a delegation from Zach Fleisher from Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations (MOFA) outlining the government's intention to introduce Performance-Based Funding for post-secondary institutions in Manitoba.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, please be advised that the Winnipeg School Division is opposed to the performance-based funding model for public education in Manitoba.

I would urge the government to reconsider the fundamentals of this type of funding model for post secondary education in Manitoba. While, I understand that the purpose of performance-based funding is to tie funding to performance metrics and use competition among universities and colleges to generate improved student performance, Manitoba has a responsibility to provide equitable opportunities for all students to continue their post secondary education studies.

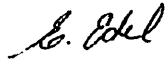
The Winnipeg School Division has direct concern and knowledge into the challenges and the barriers students and their families face on a daily basis within the current Kindergarten to Grade 12 education, let alone, entering a post-secondary education that will overtime develop bias on the ability of the student to succeed.

As you may be aware, WSD has a high concentration of low-income households. Of the 78 schools in the division, 17 had an average income below \$40,000 and 24 had an income below \$50,000. WSD also has the highest percentage of Indigenous students in Winnipeg, representing over 23 percent of students. Nearly one quarter of WSD's students living with their parents are recent immigrants. Approximately 7,000 students are newcomers and refugees to Canada. The high rate of poverty in WSD had led to unique challenges for our students.

A step forward to supporting students is providing equitable funding to close the achievement gaps. However, the proposed funding model for post-secondary institutions would result in providing less equitable funding as it will be determined through performance based and not student based. Integrating more equitable elements into the current funding model is necessary, not the opposite strategy.

I would like to reiterate, that it is the belief of WSD that the delivery of a successful education program in Manitoba must be measured on the programming and services provided by an educational system and not based on the ability of the student through performance metrics.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Edel".

Betty Edel  
Board Chair

Cc: Honourable Wayne Ewasko, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning  
Zach Fleisher, Campaigns Coordinator, Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations