



Press Release

For Details Contact: Carl Pedersen, Secretary-Treasurer (204) 822-4448

Western School Division 2020/21 Funding Announcement

Morden, Manitoba

Friday, January 31, 2020

Western School Division is projected to receive an additional 4.8% from the Provincial Funding of Schools program in comparison to the current 2019/20 fiscal year. This works out to an increase of approximately \$542,000. A 7.8% increase in student enrollment resulted in about half of the funding increase with the rest coming from an increase in equalization funding. Equalization funding assists school divisions with lower assessment per pupil, to help cover costs over and above the level of provincial funding.

School Divisions are also capped at a 2% increase in the Special Requirement. This amount is used to calculate the Special Levy and mill rate. This being a reassessment year, the mill rate will be decreasing to offset assessment increases.

Much work remains to be done on the budget. Continued high student enrollment growth rates result in staffing adjustments to accommodate the extra students. The block funding for students with exceptional needs has been frozen for the last 4 years. Western School Division is seeing a rapid increase in students with exceptional needs that are new to the Division. Budgeting for supports needed for these students is challenging due to the freeze in this funding.

A draft budget will be released at the Public Budget Exhibition at 7:00 P.M. on February 26th in the Morden Collegiate gymnasium.

For any further questions on funding or the 2020/21 budget, please contact Carl Pedersen, Secretary-Treasurer.

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