WHAT IS BILL 64?

WHAT PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES NEED TO KNOW

THIS MATTERS!

Under Bill 64 you lose your local school division representation. Bill 64 attacks democracy by removing locally elected school boards.

Your child's education is way too important to be influenced by the government's political agendas.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THIS?

There are many unanswered questions. If you are wondering what you can do, please speak up. Write or call your local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Contact the Minister of Education. Contact one of your local school trustees. Register for the MB Education 'town hall' event on June 15 and share your thoughts at engagemb.ca. Local voices need to be heard.

WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

Bill 64 is new legislation that the government plans to use to reinvent Manitoba's education system by eliminating the Public Schools act, the Education Administration Act and the Community Schools Act. Bill 64 takes away your ability to choose your local school board representatives; removing democracy and local voices from your child's education. Local voice and decision making through your school board ensures that quality education for our children remains the number one priority without political interference.

Bill 64 eliminates school boards that you elected and hands the future of your child's education to a Provincial Education Authority led by the Minister of Education. The Provincial Education Authority will take control of education on July 1, 2022 but additional changes will take place before this date. Once Bill 64 is in force, the education minister could also implement further changes that do not require any public consultation.

Bill 64 eliminates all school divisions and creates 15 regional catchments that will be much larger. The current Beautiful Plains, Rolling River and Park West School Divisions will combine to make one of these 15 regions. The Provincial Education Authority will be responsible for the delivery of the K-12 education and is made up of members selected by the government.

In this new system, each school will have a community council made up of a small group of parents. Only one parent from all the school community councils is selected to represent the entire region on the Provincial Advisory Council. This substantially minimizes the number of voices that currently make up school boards. Additionally, the Provincial Advisory Council has no authority or decision making ability in this role. When a similar Provincial Advisory Council strategy was attempted 30 years ago, it did not work. It should also be noted that two years ago, the Minister of Education eliminated the legal responsibility to meet annually with the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils who represent the current parental voice in our education system.

Bill 64 sets up a bureaucracy of decision making by people who are removed from the needs of our community. We shouldn't assume this change is in the best interest of our children's education. If you are concerned about your child's education suffering due to political agendas, go to engagemb.ca/better-education-starts-today and make local opinions count.

GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

VERSUS

OUR REALITY

CONSIDER BOTH SIDES

GOVERNMENT	SCHOOL BOARD
Manitoba's students' academic results are near or at the bottom of national and international rankings.	Our school division ranks among the highest in provincial assessments, graduation rates, and attendance. Academic elements are important but our students must also learn how to be democratic citizens in a way that creates positive change for the greater good of the world, not just one's own success and gratification.
School boards in Manitoba cost too much money and the education transformation will save tax payers $40 million.	Our local school trustees make up 0.2% of our annual school division budget. The educational expertise invested in a system extends beyond funding. The new roles created in the transformation of education will far exceed the $40 million claimed to be saved.
Currently with 37 school divisions, Manitoba has the highest number of school divisions and trustees across all the provinces per capita and too much bureaucracy.	The following number of divisions in provinces across Western Canada include: British Columbia- 60 Alberta- 61 Saskatchewan- 27 Ontario- 76 Bill 64 sets up a central system of decision making that is removed from the children and voices in our communities. We currently have highly qualified leaders who understand the needs of our communities. These people work at the local level to keep education focused on student needs and successes.
Manitoba will transform the education system by creating a provincial advisory council and school community councils that offer more parent input.	One representative per region on the provincial advisory council will not increase parent input across a system, but will reduce it. Likewise, renaming parent councils as school community councils does not mean that parents will have a greater say. These new volunteer and appointed councils will have no decision making power. The new model is a recipe for bias, inequity and low engagement.
Manitoba will develop a performance measurement strategy to report on outcomes for students.	Your child's achievements should not be compared between wealthy and impoverished communities. Bill 64 will not help students that are struggling. Blaming and shaming teachers and students who score lower on the standardized tests by publishing results won't change the numbers or fix the problem. The success of the education system is not a one-size-fits-all measurement.
It was difficult to be agile and respond quickly with 37 different school divisions during COVID-19.	School divisions worked incredibly hard to be agile and respond for the safety of our students and staff. We adapted our system with less than 48 hours notice and have continued to do this as we work through COVID-19 everyday. The ability to make local decisions is crucial to address varying learning, safety and resource needs in each classroom across our communities.