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Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre

Frequently Asked Questions


General FAQs

What is remote learning?

- Remote learning is the delivery of instruction outside the traditional classroom, supported through technology with a blend of synchronous and asynchronous coursework. It is not limited to a digital solution and refers to a variety of learning options, both online and offline. While successful remote learning requires the active participation and partnership of the student and parents/caregivers, the teacher(s) are key in creating a supportive learning environment under the guidance and leadership of a principal. The established Manitoba curriculum will be the foundation of teaching and learning. Standards for remote learning have been established to ensure a consistent experience for students across Manitoba.

What is the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre?

- In partnership with Manitoba Education, representatives from metro, rural, and northern school divisions have come together to oversee the design and implementation of the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre. This includes the following:
 - an online portal that includes a provincial repository of teaching, learning, and wellness resources, including a link to the parent portal *My Learning at Home*
 - a remote learning support team composed of instructional coaches who oversee the development of learning resources, facilitate professional learning, and offer job-embedded coaching for all Manitoba educators engaged in remote learning
 - certified teachers offering remote learning for rural school divisions that do not have the capacity to offer Kindergarten to Grade 8 remote learning
 - homeschool connectors (certified teachers and educational assistants) who offer learning supports to students who are new to homeschooling as a result of COVID-19
 - a student services support team for students who may need mental health and wellness supports, as well as for students with special learning needs



The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre has been designed to offer system-wide support for remote learning, with a focus on

- students learning from home, with a prioritization on supporting smaller divisions that lack the capacity to offer remote learning
- students and families that have registered for homeschooling due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- French Immersion remote learning students who may benefit from enhanced oral communication strategies

The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre expands on existing remote learning models, such as InformNet (Manitoba's online high school), teacher-mediated option (TMO), and other school division systems.

Is the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre an online school?

- Although staffed by qualified teachers, the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre is not an online school. Teachers are assigned to schools and to students who are learning at home due to COVID-19. Homeschool connectors (teachers and educational assistants) are also available to provide learning supports to parents/guardians who are homeschooling their children.

Who can access the materials provided by the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre is designed to support teachers, staff, students, and parents/caregivers. Teachers will have access to a remote learning support team that will assist them with blended and remote learning programs, and by providing professional development opportunities.

Learning supports are available to students and families that are learning at home due to COVID-19. The repository located on the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre portal has learning materials for teachers that can be utilized by parents who are supporting learning at home.

The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre portal links to the Manitoba Education *My Learning at Home* website, which provides resources for parents/caregivers who are supporting learning at home.

How can I access the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre can be accessed through an online portal (see www.mbremotelearning.ca/home).

How will the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre enhance remote learning already offered by schools and school divisions?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre provides a co-ordinated approach for teachers, staff, students, and parents/caregivers across the province.

The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre has been designed to offer system-wide support for remote learning, with a focus on

- students learning from home, with a prioritization on supporting smaller divisions that lack the capacity to offer remote learning, in partnership with St. James-Assiniboia School Division
- students and families that have registered for homeschooling due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- French Immersion remote learning students who may benefit from enhanced oral communication strategies

Remote learning will be offered to students across school divisions and independent schools where the demand and need exists, in partnership with the St. James-Assiniboia School Division. Priority will be given to small school divisions where economy of scale is not able to support remote learning when requested by a parent/guardian or when optional remote learning is used as a strategy to meet public health measures. Where capacity is a concern, schools and school divisions can access the remote learning teachers through a service request process.

How do I access the mental health and wellness supports available through the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre?

- School staff and parents/caregivers supporting remote learning may access the student support team by completing a request-for-support form located on the support team webpage on the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre portal (see www.mbremotelearning.ca/home).

The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre includes a student support team that is available to

- provide direct, individual support to students, as well as support students with special learning needs and their families
- collaborate with school clinicians from catchment school divisions to ensure appropriate supports are provided for students and their families
- help families to connect with mental health agencies and supports outside the school system, as needed
- provide professional consultation and development of materials to support teacher wellness
- support teachers as they respond to the social and emotional impacts of positive COVID-19 cases in a school and the overall impacts of the pandemic for the school community

- support parents as they navigate appropriate mental health supports for their school-aged children, and bridge connections with their local school or division to maintain supports

Do students require technology to access the materials provided by the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre?

- An Internet connection will be required to access the repository, but all materials can be downloaded and printed for offline use.

Teacher FAQs

What teaching materials are available?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre repository contains the following teacher materials:
 - English/French independent inquiry-/project-based learning experiences that address learning outcomes from the four subject areas (English language arts, math, science, and social studies)
 - These learning experiences are developed, and will continue to be developed, in digital format and in print for those without Internet connectivity. They are designed to be completed in a two-week learning block or less, depending on the grade level.
 - resources that enhance and build Manitoba teachers' capacity with the online delivery of English/French instruction
 - This is done through the provision of accessible, evidence-based teaching strategies/practices, tools, and resources to support student engagement and accelerate student learning.
 - access to French interactive workshops to support French Immersion and French language programming
 - The workshops provide opportunities for French Immersion and French students to communicate orally in French through the arts, culture, et cetera. The interactive workshops are available from January to June 2021 during school hours.

The support centre repository is easily accessed through a user-friendly online portal. To visit the portal, see www.mbremotelearning.ca/repository.

How long does it take a student to complete each learning experience?

- The length of time for completion of the learning experience depends on the type of learning experience selected. The learning experiences vary in length. Some can be completed in approximately one hour; the inquiry-based experiences may take one to two weeks, depending on the grade level.

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre repository is easily accessed through a user-friendly online portal. To visit the portal, see www.mbremotelearning.ca/repository.

In which format are the learning materials?

- The learning materials are created in a variety of formats, such as *Word*, PDF, *PowerPoint*, etc.

The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre repository is easily accessed through a user-friendly online portal. To visit the portal, see www.mbremotelearning.ca/repository.

Do I need to provide the students with additional materials (e.g., text or video), or is everything contained within the learning experience?

- Some learning experiences may require additional materials. Any materials that are needed are indicated in the overview section found on the first page of each learning experience.

What type of assessment is included?

- Assessments vary with each learning experience. Many include rubrics that are specific to the individual curricular outcomes assessed within each experience. Writing tasks, reflections, and summaries of investigations are some examples of assessments included in the learning experiences.

Can I adapt the learning materials found on the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre website?

- Yes. Each learning experience is provided in PDF format and as a *Word* document. This provides teachers the flexibility to adapt each experience to best suit the needs of individual students within their class.

Are the materials meant to be delivered synchronously or asynchronously?

- The learning resources have been developed for both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

What technology do I require to teach these learning experiences? What technology do my students require?

- Teachers will require access to a computer, a learning platform such as *MS Teams*, *Seesaw*, etc., and Internet access. Where Internet is available at home, students will require a computer, tablet or cell phone, and a learning platform such as *MS Teams*, *Seesaw*, etc. If Internet access is not possible, then print-based options with telephone contact (or an alternative) will be explored in discussion with the student's parents/ caregivers and school.

Where can I find supports about teaching remotely or online?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre includes a variety of supports for teaching online.
 - The *Manitoba Remote Learning Framework* includes strategies for teaching in an online environment (see www.mbremotelearning.ca/home, and select “Framework”).
 - The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre also includes tips and tutorials on student learning platforms, as well as links to online resources (see www.mbremotelearning.ca/professional-learning).
 - A remote learning support team dedicated to designing the repository and providing instructional coaching and professional learning is part of the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre. To access the learning support team, see www.mbremotelearning.ca/support-team and complete a request-for-service form.

Do you offer professional development on the implementation of remote learning?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre contains professional learning supports in English and French for teachers. These supports focus on pedagogy and promising practices for the implementation of remote learning, as well as various implementation models and high-yield strategies for teachers supporting students in both online and low-/no-tech learning environments (see www.mbremotelearning.ca/professional-learning).

Whom do I contact if I am having trouble with the teaching platform?

- You can contact the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre support team by visiting www.mbremotelearning.ca/support-team and completing a request-for-service form.

How do I connect with parents?

- Teachers can connect with parents via online platforms such as *MS Teams*, *Seesaw*, phone calls, and email.

I am a certified Manitoba teacher but I am not teaching in Manitoba. Can I still use these resources?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre resources are open-access and are available online. The resources are connected to Manitoba curricula.

I am a pre-service teacher. Can I use these resources in my practicum?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre resources are open-access and are available online. The resources are connected to Manitoba curricula.

Parent FAQs

Is there a cost to use the learning materials on the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre website?

- No. The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre offers resources to teachers and parents/caregivers at no cost.

Can I keep my child home and use your resources to support learning?

- Parents/caregivers who choose to homeschool their children may access the resources to support learning at home. The learning resources on the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre repository are easily accessed through a user-friendly online portal (see www.mbremotelearning.ca/repository).

Parent/caregivers may access the Manitoba Education *My Learning at Home* website at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mylearning/index.html, as well as the Manitoba Education *My Child in School* site (see www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mychild/index.html), for additional resources to support learning at home.

Can my child participate in full-time remote learning with Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre teachers?

- The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre will offer remote learning to students registered with Manitoba schools where the demand and need exists. Priority will be given to small school divisions where the economy of scale is not able to support remote learning when requested by a parent/caregiver or when optional remote learning is used as a strategy to meet public health measures. Students receiving remote learning programming from the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre will remain enrolled in their local schools. Students assigned to a Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre teacher through their home school will receive remote learning, as outlined in *Manitoba Education Standards for Remote Learning* (see www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/remote_learn_standards.pdf). These standards include synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Parents/caregivers who elect to have their children participate in remote learning will be asked to commit to remote learning for the remainder of the school year. This will ensure continuity in programming and minimize disruptions to student learning. Prior to assigning a remote learning support teacher to a student, the parent/caregiver will be informed by the school and will provide permission to share student information with the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre.

How many hours a day should my child be working?

- If your child is participating in full remote learning offered by a Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre teacher, the teacher will be adhering to the Manitoba Education standards for remote learning, outlined as follows:

Real-time online instruction will be coordinated by the assigned teacher for all students registered in the class. Students must be available for real-time learning times (synchronous – *MS Teams* or equivalent), as outlined below:

- Grades 1–4: Five to six hours of instruction (synchronous) per week
- Grades 5–8: Seven to eight hours of instruction (synchronous) per week
- Grades 9–12: Two hours per course (synchronous) per week

Independent work: Student assignments will reflect the learning outcomes of the Manitoba curriculum. Assignments will be differentiated to meet the learning needs of students. Independent work can include reading, viewing, and responding to pre-recorded videos, and engaging in project-based learning. Some parent/caregiver support may be required. Students will be expected to participate for the following minimum amounts of time (independent work):

- Grades 1–4: Two and a half hours per day
- Grades 5–8: Three hours per day
- Grades 9–12: One hour per course per day

Kindergarten: Students will engage in one to two hours per day of play-based learning. Kindergarten teachers will connect with the student, along with parents/caregivers, a minimum of once per week to facilitate connection and provide support and play-based learning ideas.

My child's remote teacher hasn't connected with me. How do I reach them?


- If your child's Remote Learning Support Centre teacher has not connected with you, contact the principal of the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre at principal@mbremotelearning.ca.

Whom do I contact if we have difficulty using the technology or connecting to the Internet?

- You can contact the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre at inquiries@mbremotelearning.ca.

As a parent, what role do I play in my child's learning through the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre?

- Parent/caregiver involvement and support will be required and will vary depending on the age of the student and the student's ability to work independently. As a parent, your role is to
 - provide supervision and facilitate student learning
 - support student engagement in the learning experiences
 - notify the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre teacher of student attendance

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- communicate concerns and/or questions with the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre teacher
 - provide connectivity, where possible and available
 - support your child in adhering to the online etiquette

What technology/materials does my child need to support their learning? Will these be provided?

- Remote learning requires access to a laptop with a camera and Internet. If Internet access is not possible, then print-based options with telephone contact (or an alternative) will be explored in discussion with the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre.

Will I need to install anything on my computer/device?

- Remote learning will require the use of a learning platform, such as *MS Teams*, *Seesaw*, etc. The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre or your child's school will provide assistance with the installation of learning platforms.

I am homeschooling. Is there a support teacher or tutor that my child can access for help?

- Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre teachers and educational assistants (homeschool connectors) will be available to provide learning support to Kindergarten to Grade 8 students who are new to homeschooling as a result of COVID-19. Learning will emphasize independent work with regular check-ins, and it will require parent/caregiver engagement. The learning resources offered will focus on the curriculum areas of English language arts, math, science, and social studies. Homeschooled students will remain registered in homeschooling at Manitoba Education.

I am homeschooling. Will my children have access to technology?

- Homeschooled children will be required to provide their own technology. If technology is not available, learning resources can be downloaded and printed.
Parents/caregivers of homeschooled students can request support from Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre teachers by contacting the principal of the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre at principal@mbremotelearning.ca.

If my child is sick and will not be completing any work that day, do I need to tell someone? Whom do I contact, and how?

- If your child is registered with the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre through their home school, attendance will be recorded. Your child may also be required to attend school (or an alternate setting) for assessment and discussions with teacher/school administrators, as needed and requested.