

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Seven Oaks School Division is a Community of Learners, every one of whom shares the responsibility to assist children in acquiring an education which will enable them to lead fulfilling lives within the world as moral people and contributing members of society.

For Seven Oaks School Division to achieve the goal of each and every child being educated to lead “fulfilling lives within the world as moral people and contributing members of society” we must view our work through the lens of equity. Our goal must be equitable outcomes for all children, not just the provision of opportunity with the consequence of differential outcomes. We must acknowledge the challenges to equity posed by poverty, racism, disability, sexism and homophobia and assist children in meeting these challenges.

Seven Oaks School Division realizes its goal of equity by truly grasping its mission and by creating policies, providing services, eliminating barriers and building community. Specific measures that further the goal of equity include, but are not limited to:

- a) Recognizing that our schools and facilities are on Treaty One Land and that we are providing an education that acknowledges and values First Nations (see Policy IDAAD – Indigenous Education Policy).
- b) Providing classrooms and schools that are safe and caring for all (see Policies JA – Safe Learning Environment for 2SLGBTQ+ Students and Staff and JCD – Safe and Caring School Communities).
- c) Eliminating most, if not all, cost barriers so that our public schools are free and universally accessible (see Policy DFH – Costs to Parents / Guardians for School Activities).
- d) Provide schools that are barrier free and classroom communities that are fully inclusive (see Policy IDDF – Inclusive Education - Student Services).
- e) Provide greater opportunities, services and supports to those students with greater needs (examples: staffing and learning support, enrichment and summer programming, Sistema, Wayfinders, nutrition, support for post-secondary entrance).

- f) Educate students to develop a sense of their place in a global context and of their responsibility as global citizens.
- g) Ensure that children in our schools see themselves, their language and culture, reflected in their schools and in the staff who work there. The division will meet this goal through employment training, hiring and staff development.

The Board will review budget, programs and policies on an ongoing basis with a view to fully realizing its commitment to equity.