

Mountain View School Division Accessibility Plan

Box 715, Dauphin, Manitoba, R7N 3B3



Part 1. Baseline Report

Provide an analysis of the types of barriers Manitobans may face in accessing your programs, facilities and services. Highlight those that are most significant to your organizational mandate and to the public.

Overview of Programs and Services
Provide a general description of your organization’s programs and services, emphasizing those targeting the public.
<p>Mountain View School Division (MVSD) is located in the Parkland region of Manitoba, bordering the shores of Lake Winnipegosis to the North, stretching from Lake Dauphin in the east to the Saskatchewan border in the west and bordering the Riding Mountains to the south. Our school division is culturally diverse and consists of approximately 3,200 students in 16 schools located in 7 communities (Roblin, Grandview, Gilbert Plains, Dauphin, Ochre River, Ethelbert and Winnipegosis).</p> <p>Mountain View provides public K-12 education to our communities. Our schools deliver a variety of programs and services including core educational services, as well as additional programming that includes vocational education, preschool programs, apprenticeship, workplace experience, community transitions (special needs), clinician services, alternative education, cultural education, French immersion, Ukrainian bilingual and college/university level dual credits.</p>

Accessibility Achievements

Summarize the steps already taken by the organization to achieve accessibility. What, if any policies, promote accessibility of your organization by the public and by staff affected by accessibility barriers?

Accessibility Achievements:

Mountain View School Division's Mission Statement expresses that MVSD will provide an inspiring, respectful and safe learning environment where every student is valued, nurtured and enabled to realize his or her full potential.

MVSD has implemented policies to address diversity, appropriate educational programming, school related activities for children with special needs, placement of students in regards to building access, new construction, individual education plans and early identification of student specific special needs.

All schools and the board office have at least one exterior door with automated operation. Over 30 classrooms have been developed into accentuated learning environments with collaborative style furnishings. Grooming rooms for students with disabilities have been developed in Roblin, Grandview, Gilbert Plains and Dauphin with additional plans for the development of a room in Ochre River. Lifts and elevators are present or in development at 4 schools. MacKenzie Middle School's redesigned Home Economics classroom has a barrier free station. Whitmore School has a cement ramp at the rear to access the playground area. Lighting updates have been completed in all facilities. Grandview School Senior Wing and Winnipegosis Elementary south exposure have both been renovated to provide significantly more natural light. Barrier free outdoor play spaces exist at 5 schools.

The Division has purchased over 20 sound field systems to assist students who are hard of hearing. Student specific assistive technology devices for speech have also been acquired. The Division has installed sound dampening materials in 3 rooms at Grandview School with materials just having arrived to complete 2 more.

Barriers to Accessibility

List barriers Manitobans may face in accessing your programs, facilities and services. Highlight those that are most significant to your organizational mandate and to the public.

What organizational policies may inadvertently create barriers? Are there any temporary barriers which may be created by renovations or computer software upgrades that could create accessibility barriers?

A significant barrier to MVSD is the financial challenges of upgrading our aging infrastructure to meet current accessibility standards. Other barriers include our current website, forms and print communications from our Division and schools that are not accessible to individuals with visual impairments.

Part 2. Accessibility Plan

A. Statement of Commitment

Mountain View Division is committed to ensuring every student is supported to reach his or her full potential. MVSD is committed to working towards providing equal access and participation for people with disabilities in an inclusive environment. We will accomplish this by identifying, removing and preventing barriers and by working towards meeting all requirements of the *Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)*.

B. Policies

- a. Mountain View School Division will review all programs, services and new initiatives to work toward accessibility.
- b. Mountain View School Division will make information available in an accessible format or provide communication supports to people with disabilities in a way that considers their disability.

C. Actions

Action 1 – Establish Accessibility Working Group

Initiatives/Actions

- Senior Administration to appoint an Accessibility Coordinator
- Senior Administration to establish an Accessibility Working Group (AWG)
- AWG to meet on a regular basis to review initiatives working toward accessibility

Expected Outcomes

- A working group created which consists of representation of the Division
- Working group has detailed work plans, multi-year timelines
- Members participate in developing, implementing and updating the Accessibility Plan

Action 2 – Offer and provide information in an accessible format on request**Initiatives/Actions**

- Accessibility Working Group to develop a process for responding to requests for accessible supports and services
- Accessibility Coordinator to communicate process to all staff
- Division will work towards awareness of availability of alternative formats

Expected Outcomes

- Public will have access to alternate print and online formats by June of 2018

Action 3 – Continue to eliminate physical barriers**Initiatives/Actions**

- Accessibility Working Group to work with divisional operations coordinator and Senior Administration to identify infrastructure improvements to reduce barriers for people with disabilities

Expected Outcomes

- Consistent evidence of infrastructure improvements removing barriers for people with disabilities demonstrated through the Division's capital and maintenance plans and subsequent reports to Senior Administration and the Board of Trustees

Action 4 – Create better staff awareness**Initiatives/Actions**

- Accessibility Working Group to share divisional Accessibility Plan with principals and schools
- Accessibility Coordinator and HR to present to school administrators on accessibility legislation, expectations and resources available to ensure AMA compliance – principals to share with staffs

Expected Outcomes

- Staff understands accessibility and supports implementation of plan
- Information on progress of implementing Mountain View School Division's Accessibility Plan is available to staff.

Action 5 – Monitor progress	
<p>Initiatives/Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Coordinator, with assistance of working group, to track progress on challenges and requests for accommodations with budgetary implications • Accessibility Coordinator to report annually to the Board of Trustees • Future plans and budgets to be integrated into operational plans • Accessibility Working Group will review plan annually 	<p>Expected Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Admin and the Board of Trustees are aware of progress on AMA compliance and considers future plans • Annual report includes progress on accessibility

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