



**This plan is available in alternate formats upon request*

Overview of Programs and Services

Park West School Division serves students in the communities of Binscarth, Birtle, Decker, Hamiota, Inglis, Miniota, Monarch, Rossburn, Russell, Shoal Lake, Strathclair, and Waywayseecappo. With a population of approximately 2000 students, our 15 schools offer a wide range of programs, and activities for our students.

Park West is committed to providing strong educational programs and opportunities for its students. Park West is also committed to creating a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for all students and staff that we serve. We want our students to reach their full potential both academically and socially.

We have public access to our facilities in many different regards including open houses, extracurricular activities, awards and student led conferences. Our facilities are often used for other clubs and organizations and they are integral parts of the community.

Accessibility Achievements

Park West School Division has included with their vision statement a commitment to value, accept and nurture students. The current policies and strategic plans that promote accessibility within our division include: Diversity, Resource Management, Positive Communication and Relationships, and Learning Environment/Programs and Services.

Barriers to Accessibility

The greatest barrier that Park West will face in this plan is the potential cost. Park West is in the process of doing an assessment of all buildings and grounds in the area and we anticipate many areas to be identified.

One of the largest items will be to upgrade older facilities to meet accessibility standards as needed. Other barriers will include technology, communications, space, and the attitudes about accessibility. These barriers will need to be addressed when we do our examinations of our schools.

Statement of Commitment

Park West School Division is committed to moving towards equal access and participation for people with disabilities. We are committed to treating people with disabilities in ways that allow them to maintain their dignity, respect, and independence.

We believe in inclusion for all and do not feel the physical or social environment should stop this from happening. We are committed to meeting the needs of people who face barriers and we will do this by preventing, identifying, and removing these barriers. We



are committed to working towards meeting the requirements of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

Procedures

- a) Park West School Division will review all programs, services, and new initiatives to work towards Accessibility. This includes examining all buildings in the division and keeping a log of them.

- b) Park West 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.

Action 1 – Create an Accessibility Committee

Accessibility Coordinator:

- Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner – Bob Gaiser

Accessibility Committee:

- Transportation Supervisor – Rick Hrycak
- Maintenance Supervisor – Rodney Snow
- ICT Supervisor/Head Technician – Grant Roszell
- Student Services Coordinator – Bonnie Kiliwnik
- Occupational Health and Safety Practitioner – Bob Gaiser

The committee may consult school principals, school personnel, or any members of the community with knowledge of specific accessibility challenges when necessary.

Frequency of Meetings:

- Regular meetings of the Accessibility Committee will be held on a quarterly basis.
- The Coordinator will convene the group on an emergent basis should the need arise.

Review of Accessibility Plan:

- The plan will be reviewed annually.

Action 2 – Offer and Provide Information in an Accessible Format on Request Initiatives/Actions

- The Accessibility Committee will develop a procedure to responding to requests for accessible supports and services.
- Staff will be made aware of the process so if they are asked they know where to go.



Expected Outcomes

- Working towards creating a procedure to handle requests and looking for other methods beforehand to help with requests.

Action 3 – Training Staff Upon Board Approval Initiatives/Actions

- Management to confirm division's commitment to accessibility in writing.
- Management to offer accessibility awareness to divisional and principal staff that includes all barriers listed and possible solutions to them.
- Management to share with staff achievements and action items in newsletters, and the website.

Expected Outcomes

- Accessibility will be considered in long term plans of Park West.
- Accessibility plan will be reviewed by Board of Trustees and shared with principal group.
- Staff learns more about accessibility and the different areas.
- The accessibility report will be made public on the website of Park West.

Action 4 – Future Progress Initiatives/Actions

- Accessibility committee will meet regularly to discuss progress and areas of concern and success.
- Coordinator to report annually to Board of Trustees on the plan.
- Budgeting to be reviewed and integrated when it comes to the accessibility plan.

Expected Outcomes

- Trustees and division consider accessibility compliance in decision making.
- Part of the annual report has accessibility in it.