

Advocating within the education system

Understanding how Manitoba's school system works saves you time and energy.

The educational chain of command is in place to address your concerns as you work *together* towards *resolution that makes sense*.

Who do I contact when an issue arises?

Start with your School!

Determine the issue and speak with the Teacher, Resource Teacher, Principal, or Guidance Counselor who is involved.

Contact your School Division!

If the issue cannot—or has not—been addressed by the appropriate individual listed above, contact your divisional student services, support person, superintendent, or school trustee.

Call the MAPC Advocacy Project!

At *any time*, you can contact the MAPC Advocacy Project.



Contact Us

*Questions?
Interested in becoming a Volunteer Advocate?
Please contact us.*

Manitoba Association of
Parent Councils Advocacy Project

1005-401 York Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0P8

Telephone: (204)-956-1770

Toll-Free: 1-877-290-4702

Fax: (204)-948-2855

Email: mapc1@mts.net

Website: www.mapc.mb.ca



The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing meaningful involvement and participation of parents in order to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba.



**Manitoba
Association
of Parent
Councils**



Advocacy Project

What is Advocacy?

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Advocacy Project (MAPCAP) defines advocacy as "*Speaking up for yourself and others*".

Advocacy is a process that can be used to resolve an issue involving a student, a student's parents, a group of parents, and the school.

What is MAPCAP?

The MAPC Advocacy Project (MAPCAP) helps parents learn how to navigate their way through Manitoba's educational system.

We teach you to work your way towards resolution when you are faced with a challenge that is affecting your child's education.

MAPCAP Advocates are trained parent volunteers who are available to support you as you work with the education community towards a successful resolution.



How do I know I have an issue?

Ask yourself these questions if an issue arises:

- What is bothering me?
- Why is it bothering me? For instance, does it compromise my value system?
- How does it make me/my child feel?
- When did it start?
- How long has it been going on?
- Who is involved?
- What will happen if I don't solve the problem?

Advocacy may be needed if you are concerned about your child's educational experience.

It is important to have a good support system to discuss the issues. This will help you identify your strengths, provide feedback as you prepare, and give you the support you need when you are ready to deal with the issue.

Some examples of issues which you may want to address may include:

- Treatment of students by staff, administration, or other students
- Violence/bullying/cyber bullying within the school system
- Discipline of your child within the system
- Placement or programming for students with special needs

If you consider it important enough to be concerned, we consider it important enough to listen and help you figure out what your next step may be.

Understanding Advocacy

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Advocacy Project (MAPCAP) identifies four types of Advocacy:

STUDENT: When a student speaks up for him or herself

NATURAL: When a parent speaks up on behalf of their child.

INDIVIDUAL: When a parent asks a friend, family member, or MAPCAP Advocate to assist them with a challenge.

SYSTEM: When an individual or group speaks on behalf of the people they represent.



How MAPCAP can help

- **Helping** you coordinate required documentation
- **Identifying** useful resources
- **Researching** Manitoba's educational policies and legislation
- **Assisting** with meeting preparation