



Proposed Education Modernization Act (Bill 64): Chaos, Cuts and Less Democracy

WHAT IS BILL 64?

- It's *The Education Modernization Act*. Bill 64 is a threat to public K-12 education in Manitoba.
- The proposed law:
 - o Creates the Provincial Education Authority (PEA) to run the public education system. A small, appointed group of 6 to 11 board members will deliver public education across the province.
 - o Ends local democracy in education by eliminating School Divisions and elected Boards of Trustees (except the francophone school division). Thirty-seven School Divisions are replaced with 15 regions administered by Education Directors and advisory bodies, all run by the PEA.
 - o Creates a plan to gradually eliminate the education property tax that makes up 42% of all education funding.

WHEN WILL THESE CHANGES HAPPEN?

- July 1, 2022 is the date set for the Provincial Education Authority to take over.
- Bill 64 must become law first. The provincial government is planning to appoint a transition team to implement the changes.

IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH BILL 64?

- Yes.
 - Bill 64 includes drastic changes to the education system that have nothing to do with improving the quality, diversity and inclusiveness of public education for our province.
 - Bill 64 is an attack on local democracy and public participation.
 - Bill 64 is an attack on high quality, inclusive education.
 - Bill 64 is an attack on public education funding.
 - Bill 64 is an attack on frontlines public education workers.
 - Bill 64 creates chaos and uncertainty at a time when the COVID pandemic makes public services more important than ever.

WILL THERE BE JOB CUTS?

- The Minister of Education, Cliff Cullen, would not guarantee job security. He said that he would leave decisions about job cuts until later.
- Premier Pallister called the system top-heavy, and used the example of custodians in division offices who could be laid off.

WILL EDUCATION FUNDING BE CUT?

- There have already been funding cuts to education, and Bill 64 will probably result in further cuts.
- Bill 64 creates a process to eliminate education property taxes that pay for 42% of education funding. The government has not said how this funding gap will be filled.