

FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION

TITLE – **HUTTERIAN TRANSITION PROGRAM**

POLICY - **CGCA**

Cross Reference -

Resolution # - 207/17

Legal Reference -

Last Reviewed - 25/09/17

HUTTERIAN TRANSITION PROGRAM

(Proposed Program for *Activities and Programs – Learning to Age 18 Regulation*)

I. RATIONALE

The Hutterite people in Manitoba have a unique culture. One of the components of this culture for some Hutterite Colonies is for students to leave school before the age of 18, and join a peer group which in part carries adult status. This transition towards adulthood is characterized by the full participation of the members of this group in the labor process. This group learns a number of trades and explores their vocational aspirations in the community during their adolescent years.

The Preparing Students For Success Act challenges a long standing cultural practice for many Hutterite people. Some Colonies in Manitoba have perceived a need for change in terms of students leaving school before the age of 18, and encourage their children to remain in school until they are 18 year of age, or until they graduate. Other colonies, however, have not perceived a need for this change, and believe no person or group has the right to make changes to another culture unless that culture perceives a need for change.

The *Hutterian Transition Program* (HTP) recognizes the cultural context of Hutterite systems, and the need to provide students who now must remain in school until 18 years of age, with meaningful programming.

II. RELEVANT LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS

The *Hutterian Transition Program* complies with the intent of *The Preparing Students for Success Act* (PSSA) in several key areas. The PSSA recognizes “young people have different learning styles, and that some of these leaning styles can best be addressed outside the traditional classroom or through alternative programming.” Further, it recognizes that preparing students for a successful future can occur in the workplace and in training or apprenticeship programs. Added to this, the PSSA recognizes that “strong partnerships are needed to help keep students engaged in learning.”

The PSSA amended Section 41(1) of *Public Schools Act* (PSA) to read that every school board shall:

- (k.1) identify pupils who are disengaged from school, or who are at risk of becoming disengaged, and establish policies and procedures to support them becoming
- (i) re-engaged in school programming, or
 - (ii) engaged in activities or programs prescribed under section 262.2, in the case of pupils who are 15 years of age or older and who have significant difficulties in engaging in school programming;

Other amendments include:

Regulations: participation in alternative activities and programs

262.2(1) The minister may make regulations respecting activities and programs, including work training programs that provide educational benefits, in which a child who is at least 15 years old may participate instead of attending school.

Content of regulations

262.2(2) Without limitation, a regulation made under subsection (1) may

- (a) establish conditions under which and procedures by which children may participate in an activity or program;
- (b) establish criteria or standards for the activities or programs, and procedures for determining whether the criteria or standards are satisfied;
- (c) prescribe the monitoring and reporting on a child's participation in an activity or program, including governing how and to whom such reports are to be made.

Exemption from liability

262 No person is guilty of an offence under subsection 260(2) for failing or refusing to ensure that his or her child attends school if

- (i) the child is at least 15 years of age and is participating in an activity or program provided for in the regulations made under section 262.2;

Activities and Programs – Learning to Age 18 Regulation states:

An activity or program in which a pupil may participate instead of attending school may be approved if participation in it will result in any of the following outcomes:

- (a) the pupil becoming re-engaged in school programming;
- (b) the pupil receiving education and training for a specific job, occupation or other form of employment;
- (c) development of the pupil's preparation for employment and general employment skills;
- (d) development of the pupil's life skills.

The Regulations defines a “pupil” who:

- (a) has been identified by the school board as being a pupil who is disengaged from school; and
- (b) is 15 years of age or older and is required to attend school under section 250.1 of *The Public Schools Act*.

It is the intent of *The Hutterian Transition Program* to comply with the above legislation and regulations. The program is designed to accommodate students who are “at-risk of becoming disengaged” (due to cultural practices) from school if they are required to attend school past the age of 15.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- 1) Parents will submit a written request to the School Administrator asking that their students participate in *The School Transition Program*. A database of students participating in this program will be kept in the School Administrator’s Office.

- 2) The School Administrator will complete a *Hutterian Transition Program Form* (Appendix A) for each student participating in the HTP.
- 3) In the first year of the program (age 15) students will work in at least 2 areas of the colony's vocational areas (e.g., livestock, sewing, carpentry, cooking, machine shop).
- 4) Once a student reaches the age of 16 years, they will transition, with the support of Fort La Bosse, into the Manitoba High School Apprenticeship Program.

III. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Students participating in the *Hutterian Transition Program* will be monitored by the school administrator. Students will be required to contact the School Administrator once every two weeks. A record of this contact will be maintained on the *Hutterian Transition Program Form*.

IV. OUTCOMES

The *Hutterian Transition Program* meets three of the four outcomes specified in Section 2 of the *Activities and Programs – Learning to Age 18 Regulation*. Student participation in this program (1) allows the pupil to receive education and training for a specific job or occupation, (2) develops the pupil's preparation for employment and general employment skills, and (3) develops the pupil's life skills.

In keeping with the Regulation, the program does not include a course for which the student may earn a credit.

PROGRAM APPROVAL

Superintendent's Department

Date

Board of Trustees Chairperson

Date