



**Universally Accessible Nutrition Program  
September 17, 2024**

During the 2023-24 school year, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning announced the Universally Accessible Nutrition Program. The goal of the program is to provide access to nutrition for any student who is in need. MEECL openly admitted that the program was being introduced without significant structure or criteria as they did not want to delay providing schools the financial resources to support student nutrition.

Sunrise School Division received \$364,000 for the UANP. École Powerview School will receive \$120,000 of this funding because of its Community School designation. \$244,000 will be distributed to the remaining schools in Sunrise. A minimum of 65% must be spent directly on nutrition, namely food and beverage items. A maximum of 35% can be spent on equipment, supplies and staffing.

Schools were asked to identify the number of students in their school who they felt had unmet nutrition needs. The funds were distributed on a per pupil needs basis as follows:

Anola	\$11,090.88	Gillis	\$13,863.60
ÉDS	\$13,863.60	ÉBEYS	\$36,969.60
OBE	\$13,863.60	ÉESS	\$41,590.80
SMS	\$11,090.88	Whitemouth	\$27,727.20
SCI	\$32,348.40	Centennial	\$18,484.80
Hazelridge	\$4,621.20	LDBSS	\$18,484.80

All schools saw the divisional allocations. Schools indicated they were grateful for the funding and shared no concerns with allocations. Our colony schools did not identify any students with unmet nutrition needs.

### **Summary of School UANPs**

With the funding that comes from the Community School designation, ÉPVS is contracting with their current canteen operator. Through this partnership the school will pay the provider to prepare and supply breakfast and lunch items for students in need. The school will also expand its classroom-based snack program in both elementary and high school classrooms.

The following points are a summary of the programs in the remaining 12 schools that are receiving UANP funding:

- All schools are expanding on an existing breakfast, lunch or snack program that is already being delivered in the school.
- Eight schools have indicated they will be hiring additional staff or adding time to existing staff members. This most commonly took the form adding hours to educational assistants or lunch monitors. Four of the schools felt they could offer a program with their existing staff.
- Two schools will partner with service providers who will prepare and drop off items at the school on a regular basis.
- One school will be partnering with their local community resource center who will be shopping for the program and preparing some items to be provided to students.
- The most common items indicated on proposed menus were yogurt, fruit, vegetables, milk, sandwiches, cereal and soups. Several schools also indicated individually packaged items such as cheese strings and granola bars would be made available.

### **Next Steps**

This will be a learning year for all our schools. Our schools were provided this opportunity with short notice and without significant direction from MEECL. That being said, this is still a valuable opportunity for our schools and students. I would suggest that Trustees check-in with school administrators when they have the opportunity to visit schools and ask to see UANP operations. A mid-year check in will be scheduled during a monthly SELT meeting to review how programs are evolving in schools.