



Bill 225: Universal Early Reading Screening in Manitoba

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The Manitoba Government has passed **Bill 225, the Public Schools Amendment Act (Universal Screening for Learning Disabilities)**, ensuring all students **Kindergarten–Grade 4** receive early reading screenings.

Key Points:

- **Universal Screening:** All students assessed using evidence-based tools approved by the minister.
- **Twice-Yearly Checks:** Screening occurs at least twice per year in three of the first five school years.
- **Parent Updates:** Progress shared through report cards.
- **Ongoing Support:** Students identified with reading challenges receive targeted help.
- **Pilot Programs:** Select school divisions are already testing screening tools; full rollout next school year.

The **Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS)** supports early screening but stresses that **identification must be paired with real support:**

- Schools need more **specialists and resources** to help struggling readers.
- Screening should be **teacher-led, flexible, and adaptable**—not tied to a single commercial tool.
- **Diverse teaching strategies** are essential; there is no one-size-fits-all approach to reading.
- **Investment in public education** is crucial: smaller classes, collaboration time, and consistent funding ensure students get the help they need.



Samantha Turenne

Samantha Turenne is the Editor of the MB Teacher magazine and the Communications Department Head for The Manitoba Teachers' Society.