

School Structure

Hutterite children, like all other children in Manitoba, receive programming and instruction based on provincial curricula. Hutterites, however, have been granted the right by our province to have their children attend school within their own communities. Colonies provide and maintain the school buildings, while staff and supplies are funded by the local school division. In the Interlake School Division there are approximately 245 Hutterite students in grades K-12, and 18 FTE certified teachers working in nine schools across the division. Some schools have the same name as their colony, others have a name that is completely different from the colony name. On the colonies, these teachers are referred to as "English" teachers, a term that is often used to refer to anyone who is not a Hutterite. All teachers teach in multi-grade classrooms, often based on early, middle and high school groupings.

Hutterite children are confronted with learning three languages. A Tyrolean dialect, Hutterisch, is learned in the home and is used mainly in oral communications. German is learned before and after a regular school day and is used mainly in the church and in written communication. English is learned in "English" school and used in business communication and with people from outside the colony. Students enter English Kindergarten speaking very little English. Although instruction in provincial curricula occurs in English, it is acceptable for students to speak in their first language to achieve meaning.

On a typical day, English school begins after students have had an hour of German school, which is taught by an appointed colony member. English school typically runs from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. The students get a short break at 3:30 p.m. and then have another hour of German School.