

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Links for Swim@School

There are clear links in curriculum for swimming lessons offered to school aged children. The summary of where these links are is provided by province, where information was available on Ministry of Education websites across Canada.

British Columbia

The Swim@School program fits nicely within the Grades 1 to 4 P.E. curricula for B.C. The swim portion of the program fulfills the P.E. learning requirements for activity-specific motor skills for grades 2 to 4 and the P.P. injury prevention objectives for grades 4-5. BrainGames fulfills the safety requirements for grades K to 3 of the P.E. curriculum and the safety objectives for grades K to 5 of the P.P. Curriculum.

Alberta

The Swim@School program fits nicely within the Grades 3 to 4 Alberta P.E. curricula, meeting the alternative environment requirements for several basic movement skills. Additionally, BrainGames fits nicely as a stand-alone program for the H.L.S. curriculum, especially for grades 3 to 5.

Saskatchewan

The Swim@School program would be a fit for most grades in Saskatchewan. However, the best fit would likely be Grades 1 to 5, allowing teachers to do more advanced aquatics in the middle years. BrainGames covers the safety and first aid requirements for the grades 1 to 5 P.E. curriculum and the Grade 4 H.E. curriculum. The grade 4 curriculum has the overall best fit with the Swim@School program.

Manitoba

The Swim@School program meets the safety, movement, fitness management, and healthy lifestyles practices frameworks for the grades 1 to 5 P.E. curricula. Due to the very general nature of the learning outcomes, the Swim@School program and BrainGames component meet many of the physical and health education requirements for all primary grades. The Swim@School program should be able to minimize the lack of aquatic and water safety curriculum in Manitoba and can probably be implemented without requiring any changes to the existing curricula.

The tragic death of Joshua Harder, who died on a school swimming trip in Manitoba in 2002, has led to a number of recommendations on water safety and drowning prevention from the primary judge in the drowning inquiry. One of the recommendations states: *"That the Seine River school division give serious consideration to including swimming lessons as an essential component of physical education for primary grades but in any event that it mandate water safety as an essential component of at least the primary grades physical education and health curriculum."*

In light of these recommendations, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees generated a document outlining school policy for school-related swimming activities. Manitoba Education may be actively seeking a program to fill the current gaps in water safety instruction.