

Scholarship and Grant Awards for Black/African Nova Scotian Students

AFRICAN CANADIAN SERVICES BRANCH

“Successful inclusive education requires a focus on equity by supporting success for students who are historically marginalized and racialized (African Nova Scotian and Mi’kmaw students) or who come from other groups that have been traditionally under-represented and under-served ...”

—Nova Scotia *Inclusive Education Policy* (2019)

African Nova Scotian cultural beliefs systems affirm Black children as wonderful creations that are endowed with gifts and talents that must be nurtured through individual and collectively confirming experiences. Authentic, strengths-based practices that honour spiritual, familial, and communal understandings, and engage the brilliance of Black learners through culturally responsive teaching inspire wellness, a sense of belonging, and success at school.

In spite of their potential and promise, the achievement gap between students of African descent and their peers is significant; is present in reading, writing, and mathematics; is evident at every grade level addressed by a provincial assessment or examination; and has remained largely unchanged from 2012 to the present.

ALL staff are called by the *Inclusive Education Policy* to use their power and privilege to support Black students in feeling safe, accepted, and valued so they can best learn and succeed during their time in school.

Math and Literacy Grants

The African Canadian Services Branch provides the African Nova Scotian Math and Literacy Grant to Regional Centres for Education (RCEs) and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) in support of the increased achievement of our African Nova Scotian learners. These designated funds are provided to the Regional Coordinators of African Canadian Education Services to be used to provide targeted and focused instruction to learners who require enhanced instruction to meet and exceed learning outcomes.

Jeanine Deveau Achievement Fund

The Jeanine Deveau Achievement Fund (JDAF), through the African Canadian Services Branch, sponsors a one-time grant to the African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker Program in support of the creation and/or enhancements of culturally safe spaces within public schools for African Nova Scotian learners. Nova Scotia public schools, through the Regional Coordinator of African Canadian Education Services and in partnership with their African Nova Scotian Student Support Workers, are encouraged to apply for a one-time grant of up to \$1,000 per school for funding to create or enhance a cultural space within the school. The JDAF program begins 2020–21.

Student Enrichment Grant

Nova Scotia public schools can apply for funding to support enhanced and enriched educational opportunities for African Nova Scotian students. Schools, in partnerships with their African Nova Scotian students and their parents/guardians, are encouraged to apply for funding to assist in promoting increased access, enrollment, and retention in courses or programs that are disproportionately underrepresented, such as French Immersion, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate Program, and STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The Student Enrichment Grant program begins 2020–21.

Student Cultural Leadership and Mentorship Grant

“African Nova Scotian children must be given the opportunity to experience an appropriate cultural education which gives them an intimate knowledge of, and which honours and respects, the history and culture of Black people ...” (BLAC Report on Education 1994, p.18)

The Student Cultural Leadership and Mentorship Grant (CLM) grant is provided to enhance and/or develop student-centered leadership/mentorship groups, activities, and initiatives for African Nova Scotian students. The funds will be distributed and monitored by the Regional Coordinators of African Canadian Education Services. Funds will be designated as “protected” ensuring they are utilized in support of intended programming and able to be carried over to the next fiscal year if necessary. The Cultural Leadership and Mentorship grants are a one-time, “seed” allotment of money that is meant to financially assist RCEs/CSAP in fulfilling their mandate of supporting students of African ancestry.

Scholarship and Awards Program for African Nova Scotian Students

“In higher education, the quest of African Nova Scotians for equal educational opportunities is impeded by socio-economic inequities and the absence of adequate provision of compensatory assistance.” (BLAC Report on Education 1994, p.20)

This program provides financial assistance to African Nova Scotian/Black students so they will be encouraged to continue their post-secondary education following completion of grade 12 in the Nova Scotia school system. The following scholarships are available to these students entering post-secondary education.

- University Entrance Award – \$4,500
- Post-Secondary Award – \$2,500
- Community College/Trade School Award – \$1,800
- Performing Arts Award – \$1,000 (only one issued per year)
- Teacher Education Award* – up to \$5,000
- Science Profession Award* – up to \$7,000

*These awards require students to already hold an undergraduate degree in most cases.

For more information please visit our website at:

www.ednet.ns.ca/acs/

For more information on the African Nova Scotian Education Framework contact African Canadian Services Branch at: (902)-424-3151

References

Black Learners Advisory Committee. 1994. *BLAC Report on Education: Redressing Inequity – Empowering Black Learners*. Halifax, NS: Black Learners Advisory Committee. www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/blac-report-education-redressing-inequity.pdf.

Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. 2019. *Inclusive Education Policy*. Halifax, NS: Government of Nova Scotia. www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/inclusiveeducationpolicyen.pdf.