

# Council to Improve Classroom Conditions

## Implementation of March 2017 Recommendations

The Council to Improve Classroom Conditions met for the first time on March 21–23, 2017, bringing forward 18 initial recommendations. The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has directed her department and school boards to act on them. Eight recommendations have been completed and ten are in progress.

The recommendations, their status, and implementation timelines are listed below.

Recommendation	Status
<b><i>Engagement (1)</i></b>	
1. Prepare and share summary of discussions and record of recommendations.	<b>Complete</b> Summary can be found online at <a href="http://novascotia.ca/classroomcouncil">novascotia.ca/classroomcouncil</a>

<b><i>PowerSchool, TIENET, Technology Work Process Issues (8)</i></b>	
2. Issue provincial directive permitting teachers to publish marks less frequently on PowerSchool, at one set time each month at a minimum.	<b>Complete</b> Directive sent to school boards on March 28; effective April 3.
3. Issue a provincial directive to end any practice that requires teachers at any grade to assign a mark to every individual outcome in PowerSchool. Teachers must still record marks in some form so they have details available to support communications with parents and to inform their instruction.	<b>Complete</b> Directive sent to school boards on March 28; effective April 3.
4. Explore ways that will enable teachers to post automated email responses, giving them up to two business days to respond.	In progress Information/options to be shared with Council at April meeting.
5. Issue a provincial directive that high school teachers do not have to enter attendance into PowerSchool until the end of day.	<b>Complete</b> Directive sent to school boards on March 28; effective April 3.
6. Report on the number of students on Individual Program Plans (IPPs), the average time needed for a teacher to adequately prepare an IPP, the amount of release time provided now versus what is needed, and costing for release time options.	In progress Information/options to be shared with Council at April meeting.

7. Require the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to present alternatives to entering adaptations into TIENET or to present other streamlining options for Council's consideration.	In progress Information/options to be shared with Council at April meeting.
8. Direct the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to assess the legal implications of allowing more school administrative assistants to have secure access to TIENET files.	In progress Information/options to be shared with Council at April meeting.
9. Immediately engage Service Nova Scotia to work directly with teachers and other PowerSchool and TIENET users.	In progress Action plan being developed with Service Nova Scotia to quickly roll out 'ask-the-user' engagement.

<b>Attendance (1)</b>	
10. Revise the attendance policy.	In progress Draft policy being revised per instructions from Council.

<b>Data Collection and Reporting (1)</b>	
11. Direct the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and school boards to prepare a summary of all data collection and reporting requirements to teachers.	In progress Request has been made to school boards; information to be shared with Council at April meeting.

<b>Pupil Evaluation, Classification, and Administrative Days (1)</b>	
12. Ask school boards to provide information on current scheduling of pupil evaluation, classification, and administrative days identified in Article 25.05(ii) of the Teachers' Professional Agreement.	In progress Request has been made to school boards; information to be shared with Council at April meeting.

<b>Assessment (6)</b>	
13. Require the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and school boards to share EDI data with all early elementary teachers and create plans to support schools which have a high concentration of children and vulnerabilities.	In progress Information shared with Early Years Branch to incorporate in planning for next EDI administration.
14. End three provincially-mandated assessments and exams.	<b>Complete</b> The following assessments and exams have been eliminated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 1 Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement</li> <li>• Grade 2 common math assessment</li> <li>• Grade 10 Math at Work provincial exam</li> </ul>
15. Continue the suspension of the Grade 8 Reading, Writing, and Mathematics assessment for this year.	<b>Complete</b>
16. Continue the suspension of Grade 10 exams for this year, but make them available at teachers' request.	<b>Complete</b>
17. Institute a five-year moratorium on new school board or provincially-initiated assessments, unless proposals are submitted and approved by the Council.	<b>Complete</b>
18. Direct school boards to present their rationale to eliminate or streamline as many assessments and related reporting as possible and bring recommendations back to Council.	In progress Determining timelines to bring forward at a future Council meeting.

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