

Provincial Community-Based Learning Policy

Policy Release

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is pleased to share the *Community-Based Learning Policy* that has been developed in collaboration with regional centres for education (RCEs) and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) staff.

The Policy ensures that Nova Scotia students have equitable access to community-based learning experiences that are culturally and linguistically responsive, accepting, and respectful in supporting and valuing their learning and diverse abilities.

This policy is **effective as of May 2022** and will replace any related policies currently in place in schools. It works in connection with other related RCE, CSAP, and provincial policies that outline program requirements.

The new *Community-Based Learning Policy* focuses on defining the components and requirements for various community-based learning experiences and clarifies responsibilities for all participants. Core among the principles of the policy are a commitment to student safety and a recognition of the valuable educational experiences that students gain through community-based learning activities, including co-op courses and placements. To achieve this, all students participating in co-op courses must meet the pre-placement outcomes before being placed in a co-op placement.

EECD acknowledges that there are administrative duties associated with this policy and that school administrators will play a significant role in its implementation. We are committed to working with RCEs and the CSAP to ensure the policy is successfully put into practice.

Originally signed by

Hon. Becky Druhan

Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

Acknowledgements

We thank the following groups and individuals for their input and work on the development of this policy:

- Students, parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and community members who participated in the consultation process;
- Regional Centre for Education and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial staff; and
- Education and Early Childhood Development staff.