

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Statement of Mandate 2010–11



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1. Message from the Minister and Deputy Minister

I am pleased to present the 2010–11 Statement of Mandate for the Nova Scotia Department of Education.

In 2010–11, the Department will continue to build a high quality, accessible education system that meets the educational needs of all Nova Scotians. For example, the Department will lead a comprehensive review of public school program offerings and requirements, with a particular focus on middle/junior high and senior high programs, 21st century skills, and student engagement.

We will continue our focus on measuring and reporting on whole school improvement through the Nova Scotia School Accreditation Program, which engages schools in an extensive review of their performance and student achievement. We will also work with school boards and other partners to develop and embed professional learning practices in our schools, supported by strong instructional leadership.

The Department continues to work collaboratively to address important issues. For example, the Department is working with the departments of Health Promotion and Protection, Justice, Community Services, and other partners on key projects, including the SchoolsPlus pilot, as part of the *Our Kids Are Worth It: Strategy for Children and Youth* a comprehensive, multi-departmental response to the Report of the Nunn Commission. The vision of SchoolsPlus is for schools to become centres of service delivery by bringing professionals and programs together to help children, youth, and families.

Work will also continue with partners to ensure that Nova Scotia post-secondary students (which include students at universities, the Nova Scotia Community College, and private career colleges) have access to an equitable, high quality education. The Department is committed to bringing Nova Scotia tuition fees to meet the national average by 2010–11. The Department will work with the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) to continue to expand the enrolment capacity of the NSCC to meet the labour market demands for the College's graduates.

In the summer of 2010, Dr. Tim O'Neill will complete a report and recommendations for the development of a more integrated, effective, and sustainable higher education system in Nova Scotia. As part of the review process, demographic trends and the financial situation facing post-secondary education in Nova Scotia will be examined. The consultation findings will help to inform future agreements and funding arrangements between the province and its universities.

In the upcoming year we will continue to work with our key partners to address current and emerging issues and challenges, as well as build on our existing strengths, to help Nova Scotians to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to become lifelong learners and to fully participate at all levels of the education system.

Original signed by

Honourable Marilyn More
Minister of Education

Original signed by

Rosalind Penfound
Deputy Minister

2. Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Education spans the education system from school entry through to all post-secondary destinations. These destinations include community college, private career college, university, and other venues supporting human development. The Department is also responsible for public libraries, the sole publicly funded institution which spans the lifelong learning spectrum.

3. Vision

In Nova Scotia education and training are valued, achievement is celebrated, and learners are provided with opportunities and tools for rewarding and successful learning experiences. We have a high quality, accessible education system that meets the educational needs of all Nova Scotians.

4. Mission

The mission of the Department of Education is to provide excellence in education and training for personal fulfilment and for a productive, prosperous society.

Belief statements that underpin this mission statement reflect the department's commitment of access to lifelong learning opportunities, full participation at all levels of education, and accountability of all partners.

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5. Performance Measures

| Outcome | Measure/Rationale | Data Base Year | Target | Trends | Strategic Actions to Achieve Target |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Schools identify areas needing improvement and develop a plan | Number of schools involved in School Improvement Planning/Accreditation | 49 (2005–06) | All 432 schools (2010–11) | 115 (2006–07) 210 (2007–08) 312 (2008–09) 408 (2009–10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Workshops and support materials (e.g., handbooks for all schools involved) ▶ Conduct external reviews for each school. ▶ Monitor school annual reports. ▶ Conduct accreditation visits. ▶ Fund initial implementation grants. ▶ Establish database. ▶ Website location for school improvement plans. ▶ Futuristic look toward the school improvement process. |
| | Number of schools receiving accreditation | 11 (2007–08) | 115 schools (2010–11) | 17 (2008–09) 49 (2009–10) | |
| Responsive and flexible learning environment | Student enrollment in online public school courses (provincially funded students). | 77 provincially funded students (2005–06) | Increase over baseline (2010–11) | 94 (2006–07) 94 (2007–08) 194 (2008–09) 200 (2009–10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Online pilot courses with school boards and funding for seats for small schools. ▶ Common provincial platform for online learning. |

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| Outcome | Measure/Rationale | Data Base Year | Target | Trends | Strategic Actions to Achieve Target |
|--|--|----------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Nova Scotian students have improved reading and writing skills | Early Elementary Literacy Assessment (grade 3), percent meeting provincial expectations in Language Arts | 75% (2007–08) | Increase over baseline (2011–12) | 82% (2008–09) 75% (2009–10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Active Young Readers/Jeunes Lecteurs actifs in grades primary–6 and Active Readers Lecteurs actifs grades 7–9. ▶ Support access to Reading Recovery™. ▶ Train French Reading Recovery™ trainer who will teach Reading Recovery™ teachers. ▶ Implement <i>Teaching in Action</i> primary–3, 4–6, and 7–9 resources. ▶ Support the literacy mentor program. ▶ Mandate instructional time allotments for language arts for grades primary–8. ▶ Implement <i>Spelling Grades Primary–9: A Teaching Resource</i>. ▶ Professional learning, print and media resources, workshops, institutes. |
| | Elementary Literacy Assessment (grade 6) percent meeting expectations in reading and writing. | 81% (2004–05) | Increase over baseline (2010–11) | 74% (2005–06) 78% (2006–07) 82% (2007–08) 82% (2008–09) 81% (2009–10) | |
| | Junior High Literacy Assessment (grade 9) percent meeting provincial expectations | 82% (2007–08) | Increase over baseline (2011–12) | 81% (2008–09) 81% (2009–10) | |
| Nova Scotian students have improved math skills | Early Elementary Mathematics Assessment (grade 3), percent meeting provincial expectations | 67% (2007–08) | Increase over baseline (2011–12) | 72% (2008–09) 71% (2009–10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Teaching resources for mathematics grades primary–9. ▶ Mandate instructional time allotment for mathematics for grades primary–8. ▶ Support the math mentor program. ▶ Expand the implementation of the PRIME professional learning program. ▶ Review specific curriculum outcomes, primary–3. ▶ Implement <i>Atlantic Canada Mathematics Assessment Resources, Entry–3</i>. |

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| Outcome | Measure/Rationale | Data Base Year | Target | Trends | Strategic Actions to Achieve Target |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Nova Scotia is accountable for education based on international comparison of assessment results | Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results for 15-year-olds, scale score | <u>Reading</u> 513 (NS 2003) 528 (Canada 2003) | <u>Reading</u> ¹ 521 (NS 2000) | <u>Reading</u> 505 (NS 2006) 527 (Canada 2006) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increase board leadership capacity to support school-based professional learning communities. ▶ Support literacy and math mentor programs. ▶ Maintain Reading Recovery™ for all grade 1 classes. ▶ Support implementation of Teaching in Action resources for grades primary–3, 4–6, and 7–9. ▶ Support implementation of Literacy Success 10, 11, and 12. ▶ Reduce total number of curriculum outcomes in science and mathematics. ▶ Teaching resources for mathematics primary–9. ▶ Implement <i>PRIME</i>, <i>Dynamic Classroom Assessment</i>, and <i>BreakThrough</i> professional learning programs. ▶ Support implementation of science 10 curriculum. |
| | | <u>Math</u> 515 (NS 2003) 532 (Canada 2003) | <u>Math</u> 515 (NS 2003) | <u>Math</u> 506 (NS 2006) 527 (Canada 2006) | |
| | | <u>Science</u> 507 (NS 2003) 519 (Canada 2003) | <u>Science</u> 520 (NS 2006) | <u>Science</u> 520 (NS 2006) 534 (Canada 2006) | |
| | | | (2010–11) | | |

¹Target for this measure is based on Nova Scotia's best results since participating in PISA. Canada results are provided for comparison purposes. PISA is administered every three years. The results from the 2009 assessment will be released in December 2010.

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| Outcome | Measure/Rationale | Data Base Year | Target | Trends | Strategic Actions to Achieve Target |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Better educated Nova Scotians | Nova Scotia Examinations (NSE) percent passing | <u>English:</u> 76% (2003–04) <u>Chemistry:</u> 66% (2003–04) <u>Physics:</u> 59% (2003–04) <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <u>Math:</u> 31% (2004–05) ² | Increase over baseline. (2010–11) | <u>English:</u> 89% (2004–05) 87% (2005–06) 79% (2006–07) ³ 76% (2008–09) <u>Chemistry</u> ⁴ : 59% (2004–05) <u>Physics:</u> 59% (2004–05) 61% (2005–06) 56% (2006–07) <u>Math:</u> 28% (2005–06) 26% (2006–07) 51% (2007–08) 45% (2008–09) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Implement Writers in Action/Écrivains à l'oeuvre 4–12. ▶ Implement resources that can be used by Mathematics 10–12 teachers to increase the algebra skills of students. ▶ Upgrade the online Mathematics Itembank. ▶ Create a Mathematics Professional Learning website. ▶ Support literacy and math mentor program. ▶ Implement <i>Teaching in Action</i> resources for grades primary–9 and launch <i>Teaching in Action 10–12</i>. ▶ Implement Literacy Success 10, 11 and 12. ▶ Implement <i>PRIME, Dynamic Classroom Assessment</i> and <i>BreakThrough</i> professional learning programs. |
| Students have access to computers at school | Percent of grade 10–12 classrooms with three or more current computers | 32% (2005–06) | 65% (2010–11) | 43% (2006–07) 40% (2007–08) 53% (2008–09) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Information Economy Initiative extension program funds software, professional development, and technological support in schools. ▶ Technology recycling program provides computers each year to public schools. |

²2004–05 was the first year the Math NSE was administered

³In 2008 NSE English exams were not scored centrally and therefore a provincial average for percent passing is not available for 2007–08.

⁴Science exams (Chemistry, Physics, Biology) are on hold.

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| Outcome | Measure/Rationale | Data Base Year | Target | Trends | Strategic Actions to Achieve Target |
|---|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Students make more effective career decisions | Student enrolment in the Options and Opportunities Program | 1,301 (2008–09) | Increase over baseline (2010–11) | 1,607 (2009–10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Implement strategies targeted towards youth at risk of leaving school early. ▶ Nova Scotia Community College development and growth strategy. ▶ Increase awareness of and access to pathways to post-secondary destinations. ▶ Provide opportunities to improve career development and education decision making. ▶ Increase access to Building Futures for Youth Program. ▶ Parents as Career Coaches Program. ▶ Develop a strategy to introduce Opportunities Academy. ▶ Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Services. |
| | Number of credits completed by students in the Co-operative Education Program | 1,283 (2005–06) | Increase over baseline (2010–11) | 2,257 (2007–08) ⁵ 3,020 (2008–09) 3,600 (2009–10) | |
| Better educated Nova Scotians | High School Graduation Rate | 84.8% (2006–07) | Increase over baseline (2010–11) | 83.9% (2007–08) 83.8% (2008–09) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Implement strategies targeted towards youth including Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling services, Schools Plus, Achievement Gap Initiative, and the Racial Equity Policy. |

⁵Collection of data for this measure was not done in 2006–07.

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| Outcome | Measure/Rationale | Data Base Year | Target | Trends | Strategic Actions to Achieve Target |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Better educated Nova Scotians | Average Nova Scotian tuition fee <i>Source: Statistics Canada TLAC Survey</i> | \$6,422 (2006–07) | national average tuition ⁶ (2010–11) | \$6,110 (2007–08) \$5,932 (2008–09) \$5,696 (2009–10) | Memorandum of Understanding with Universities on Funding and Fees |
| | Percent of Nova Scotians aged 25–54 with post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree <i>Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey</i> | 61.8% (2004–05) | Increase over baseline (2010–11) | 60.5% (2005–06) 61.2% (2006–07) 61.5% (2007–08) 60.1% (2008–09) 62.7% (2009–10) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Nova Scotia University Student Bursary Trust. ▶ MOU with Universities on Funding and Fees. ▶ Nova Scotia Community College development and growth strategy. ▶ Improvements to the Student Assistance Program. |
| | Number of diplomas, certificates and degrees issued by Nova Scotia Institutions <i>Source: Statistics Canada, Post-secondary Information System, and the Nova Scotia Community College</i> | 12,398 (2003–04) | Increase over baseline (2010–11) | 13,246 (2004–05) 13,195 (2005–06) 13,966 (2006–07) 14,642 (2007–08) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Improve access to grants targeted at students with disabilities. ▶ Establish post-secondary disability service standards. ▶ Improve infrastructure via Nova Scotia Crown Share Infrastructure Trust Fund. |
| | Nova Scotians enrolled in Canadian universities <i>Source: Statistics Canada, Post-secondary Information System</i> | 32,230 (2002–03) | Increase over baseline (2010–11) | 33,175 (2003–04) 32,682 (2004–05) 31,002 (2005–06) 31,554 (2006–07) 31,122 (2007–08) | |

⁶The target for this measure is dependent upon Statistics Canada annual calculations of the national average tuition fees. Nova Scotia has committed to reducing tuition in the province to the national average tuition by 2010 as calculated by Statistics Canada that year.

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| Outcome | Measure/Rationale | Data Base Year | Target | Trends | Strategic Actions to Achieve Target |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| | Enrolment at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) | 8,978 (2005–06) | 10,725 (2010–11) | 9,347 (2006–07) 9,922 (2007–08) 10,505 (2008–09) 10,433 (2009–10) | |
| Improve access to post-secondary education through improved funding and program delivery of Nova Scotia student assistance | Number of grants issued for under represented groups | 1,548 (2004–05) | Increase number of grants issued by 10% over baseline (2010–11) | 5,102 (2005–06) 5,429 (2006–07) 5,228 (2007–08) 6,331 (2008–09) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Improvements to the Student Assistance Program. ▶ Continue support of needs-based grants for under-represented groups, including students from low-income families, students with disabilities and students with dependents. ▶ Discussions between federal, provincial and territorial governments on improving student loan access. |
| | Value of grants issued for under represented groups | \$3,036,462 (2004–05) | Increase value of grants issued by 10% over baseline (2010–11) | \$8,866,815 (2005–06) \$8,725,907 (2006–07) \$9,482,321 (2007–08) \$10,945,762 (2008–09) | |

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| Outcome | Measure/Rationale | Data Base Year | Target | Trends | Strategic Actions to Achieve Target |
|--|--|----------------|---------------|--|---|
| Students with disabilities have increased access to post-secondary education | Number of students with disabilities graduating with post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree who receive assistance from the Province of Nova Scotia | 478 (2005–06) | 740 (2010–11) | 537 (2006–07) 578 (2007–08) 614 (2008–09) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Improved marketing materials: web site, handbooks, brochures. ▶ Special project funding to institutions. ▶ Establish goods and services standards. ▶ Building connections with the p–12 system. ▶ Survey students with disabilities to determine success strategies and gaps. |
| | Percent of total student enrollment at colleges and universities in Nova Scotia receiving assistance from one or more of the provincial programs for students with disabilities ⁷ | 4.1% (2005–06) | 6% (2010–11) | 4.2% (2006–07) 4.8% (2007–08) 5.2% (2008–09) | |

⁷Statistics show that 6% of students who enrol at university are students with disabilities, yet historically only 3% of students enrolled in university access Nova Scotian programs for students with disabilities.

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6. Budget Context

| Education and Assistance to Universities | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2009-10 Estimate | 2009-10 Forecast | 2010-11 Estimate |
| Program & Service Area | (\$thousands) | (\$thousands) | (\$thousands) |
| Total Education Gross Program Expenses: | | | |
| Senior Management | 750 | 687 | 750 |
| Corporate Policy | 1,689 | 1,540 | 1,678 |
| Corporate Services | 16,058 | 15,744 | 14,843 |
| Public Schools | 32,123 | 32,576 | 33,707 |
| Higher Education | 44,002 | 47,375 | 36,721 |
| Acadian & French Language Services | 1,144 | 1,403 | 1,536 |
| Public Education Funding | 930,615 | 930,967 | 945,562 |
| Other Grants | 18,163 | 18,163 | 19,063 |
| Learning Resources Credit Allocation | 4,813 | 4,813 | 8,813 |
| Teachers' Pension | 58,712 | 59,006 | 59,631 |
| School Capital Amortization | 60,954 | 60,298 | 66,757 |
| Community College Grants | 116,124 | 116,924 | 126,304 |
| Total Education Gross Program Expenses | 1,285,147 | 1,289,496 | 1,315,365 |
| | | | |
| Total Assistance to Universities - Gross | 455,802 | 449,647 | 60,643 |
| | | | |
| Total DOE & Assistance to Universities Expenses | 1,740,949 | 1,739,143 | 1,376,008 |
| | | | |
| Additional Information: | | | |
| Education: Fees and Other Charges | (1,185) | (1,241) | (1,783) |
| Education: Ordinary Recoveries | (24,017) | (30,683) | (16,522) |
| Assistance to Universities: Ordinary Recoveries | (13,865) | (13,865) | (11,139) |
| | | | |
| TCA Purchase Requirements | 173,709 | 142,751 | 146,460 |
| Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) | 294.2 | 260.6 | 296.2 |