

Provincial Options and Opportunities Policy

Policy Release

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is pleased to share the *Options and Opportunities (O₂) Policy* that has been developed in collaboration with regional centres for education (RCEs) and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) staff.

The *O₂ Policy* ensures that Nova Scotia students have equitable access to the Options and Opportunities program and that the program is 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 *O₂ Policy* focuses on defining components and expectations of the *O₂* program and clarifies the responsibilities of all participants in supporting the program and its' learners. The program is designed to help students work toward a career or occupation in contexts that respond to their learning needs. Students develop connections to the workplace, post-secondary institutions, and training programs that assist with transitioning to new environments beyond high school. Students enrolled in *O₂* will develop the competencies and skills that will prepare them for a lifetime of transitions and learning.

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

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- 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.