

Updated *Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy*

Background

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is pleased to share the revised *Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy* that has been developed in consultation with many key partners, including over 6000 participants in multiple surveys and almost 800 participants at the School Advisory Council provincial conference. The policy includes stronger definitions of unacceptable behaviours, new responsibilities for all members of the school community, a requirement to support those affected or harmed by unacceptable behaviours, and provisions for children in pre-primary and students requiring intensive behavioural supports.

EECD is also pleased to share the *Guide for Responding to Unacceptable Behaviours* which provides greater detail for school administrators and their teams on how to effectively and appropriately respond to unacceptable behaviours, recognizing that all behaviour is a form of communication.

These two resources are components of a comprehensive plan that will build on ongoing investments to help ensure Nova Scotia schools are inclusive and safe by setting clear, standardized, and firm expectations and accountabilities for students, educators, families, and communities.

Implementation

The new *Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy* will take effect **September 2025**. In the meantime, regional, board, and school staff are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new policy to prepare for implementation. In the coming months, school staff province-wide will also receive dedicated training. Any feedback or questions can be shared with RCEs and the CSAP who, in collaboration with EECD, will aim to provide any required clarification to increase understanding and support successful implementation. We appreciate your ongoing support in creating a safe school environment for students and staff. We are committed to working with RCEs and the CSAP to ensure the policy is successfully implemented across the province.

Original signed by

Hon. Brendan Maguire

Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development