

Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy

for staff

Nova Scotia's schools need to be places where students can focus on learning and staff can safely do their jobs.

The Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy supports safe learning spaces. It defines acceptable and unacceptable student behaviours and guides schools in responding to unacceptable behaviours in a consistent and fair way.

Code of Conduct Update

The Code of Conduct has been updated as part of Nova Scotia's safe schools strategy. Updates provide clear guidance and roles for all school staff:

- new incident categories and definitions of unacceptable behaviours
- reporting processes that empower all staff to report unacceptable behaviours
- tools to guide a consistent response to unacceptable behaviours
- stronger supports for students and staff when specialized interventions are needed

Staff can now review the updated Code of Conduct. The updated Code of Conduct takes effect at the start of the 2025–26 school year.

Your Role

Every staff member has a role to play to ensure that schools are safe and inclusive places to learn and work:

- empower students to be positive, engaged members of their classroom, school and community
- model acceptable behaviours
- accurately report and record incidents of unacceptable behaviour

Detailed guidance on what to report and how to report will be provided through professional development and supporting documents.

Learn More

At the school level, the principal is the first point of contact. Establishing and communicating school-wide expectations is a responsibility of the principal.

Nova Scotia School Safety:
ednet.ns.ca/school-safety

Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy:
ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf

Contact your Regional Centre for Education:
ednet.ns.ca/eecd-contacts/regional-centres-education-csap