

Land Acknowledgement



Inclusive Education in Nova Scotia

Well-Being Supports for Students

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Today's Session

Inclusive Education Policy

- ✓ Background
- ✓ Investments

Well-Being

- ✓ Gathering Your Ideas



System Change

Government has made significant strides in six key areas to support Inclusive Education

- ✓ Inclusive Education Policy
- ✓ Implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- ✓ Additional funding and resources
- ✓ Strong home-school partnerships
- ✓ Practical, specialized professional development
- ✓ Student-centered interagency collaboration



Inclusive Education Policy

The Inclusive Education Policy, implemented in September 2020, reflects the importance of the **well-being** of all students and the impact it has on their **achievements**.

Inclusive schools are **equitable**, and **culturally, linguistically, and socially responsive**. They have structures, processes, and practices that are **student-centered, appropriate, and collaborative**.



← English
Inclusive
Education



← French
Inclusive
Education

Inclusive Education Policy Guiding Principles

What elements of the
Inclusive Education Policy
have you seen implemented in
your school?

Every student:

- can learn with enough time, practice and equitable and responsive teaching.
- including those with special needs, should receive full-day instruction every day, with flexibility based on the student's individual strengths and challenges.
- should be taught within a common learning environment with students of similar age with flexibility that is based on, and responsive to, the student's individual strengths and challenges.
- deserves to belong, be safe, and feel welcomed in all aspects of their daily experience.

Inclusive education:

- is a commitment to honour and respect each student's cultural and linguistic identities and knowledge systems.
- practices use of evidence of students' strengths and challenges to determine a system of supports and monitor the effectiveness of those supports.
- values, draws upon, and includes student voices and choices to assist students in achieving their goals.

All partners:

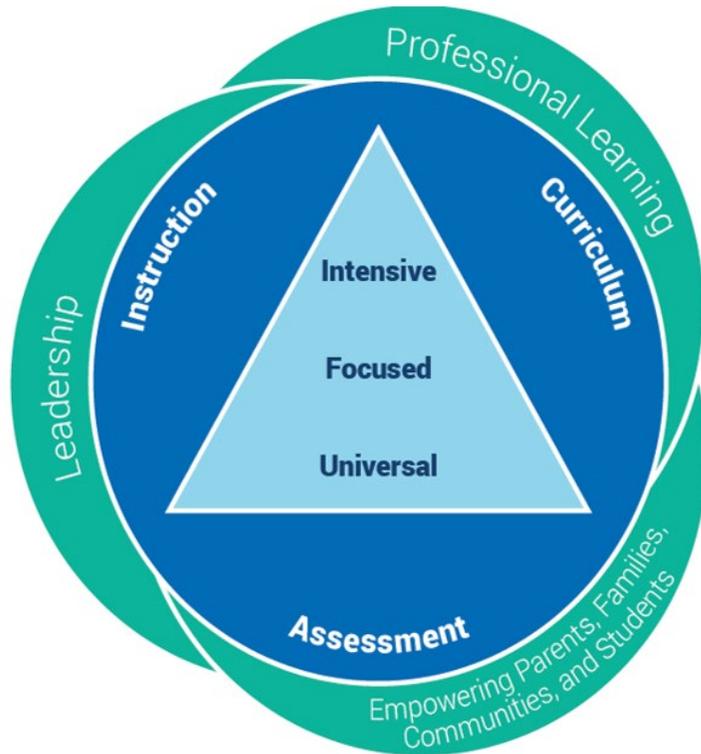
- **Are committed and empowered to work collectively to identify and eliminate barriers that interfere with students' well-being and achievement.**

Gathering your Ideas

What elements of the Inclusive Education Policy have you seen implemented in your school?



Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)



Tier 1: Universal (classroom) core curriculum and core instruction for all students

Tier 2: Focused (small group) supplementary interventions for some students

Tier 3: Intensive (individual) interventions for a small percentage of students

Inclusive Education Investments

- ✓ Funding increase of \$15 M annually beginning in 2018-19 to a total of \$78.3 M annually by 2023-24
 - Added over 1000 new positions to support students and teachers
 - Invested in initiatives and projects that support the guiding principles of the Inclusive Education Policy

Inclusive Education Staffing

The majority of new investments were used to increase the number of staff working in schools with students and teachers.

- ✓ **483** Student and classroom supports
 - ✓ Teaching Assistants
 - ✓ Child and Youth Care Practitioners
 - ✓ African Nova Scotian Student Support Workers
 - ✓ Mi'Kmaq Student Support Workers
 - ✓ Assistive Technology Support Workers

Inclusive Education Staffing (Cont.)

- ✓ **348** Teachers and specialists
 - ✓ School Counsellors
 - ✓ Culture and Language Specialists
 - ✓ EAL/FAL Teachers
 - ✓ Behaviour Support Teachers
 - ✓ Learning Support Teachers
 - ✓ Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Specialists
 - ✓ Applied Behavioural Analysis Specialist

- ✓ **130** SchoolsPlus supports
 - ✓ SchoolsPlus Community Outreach Worker
 - ✓ SchoolsPlus Facilitator
 - ✓ SchoolPlus Regional Coordinator
- ✓ **31** School Psychologists and SLPs
- ✓ **17** School Health Partnership Nurses
- ✓ **11** Pre-primary Inclusion Coaches
- ✓ **11** Parent Navigators

Examples of Inclusive Education Initiatives

IWK/NSHA - School Health Partnership (SHP)	School Health Partnership (SHP) Nurses support children with medically complex care needs and the staff that care for them in the school setting.
Assistive Technology Plan	Promotes student participation and access to curriculum through assistive technology and innovative solutions.
Board Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBA) Training	BCBA Training – complex behavior supports
The Youth Project	Partnership that helps to make schools in Nova Scotia more inclusive, welcoming, and safe for 2SLGBTQIA+ students.

Examples Inclusive Education Initiatives (Cont.)

DCS Homebridge – Bridges for Learning (BFL)

An accredited school program designed to meet the unique learning needs of youth-in-care by assisting in transitioning the students back into the public school system

Roots of Empathy

ROE is a recognized Social Emotional Learning program provided in early elementary schools.

Achieve Program

One year program for 17-21 year old high school graduates with disabilities . Transition from high school to further studies and employment.

Gathering your Ideas

How do you see these Inclusive Education roles and initiatives connecting to the work of the SAC?



Inclusive Education Supporting Wellbeing and Achievement

- ✓ Culturally and Linguistically Responsive
- ✓ Respect for each student's cultural and linguistic identities and knowledge systems
- ✓ Student Voice and Choice
- ✓ All partners are committed and empowered to work collectively to eliminate barriers
- ✓ All schools have a teaching support team who has as a primary role to help teachers to support the wellbeing and achievement of students
- ✓ Role for parents, guardians and families as part of the school community



Key Sources of Information

- ✓ Student Success Survey
- ✓ Attendance Data
- ✓ Achievement Data
- ✓ Identify and measure the impact of school-wide approaches to support wellbeing and achievement
- ✓ Engagement (families, students and communities)
- ✓ Self-identification



Gathering your ideas

What are your thoughts on what you have heard today and what do you want to share about how to best move forward?



Questions?



Continuing the Conversation

Please reach out to your school administrator if you have ideas or questions about the Inclusive Education Policy and opportunities for SACs to support this work.

