Education and Early Childhood Development

May 2022

Policy and Information Release

This notice is intended for regional centres for education, CSAP, and principals. Please convey to all staff for whom this information is relevant.

Volunteer Background Check Policy

Policy Release

With the recent release of the *Student Protection Policy* (effective June 1, 2021), the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is pleased to share the *Volunteer Background Check Policy*, which has been developed in collaboration with staff from the Regional Centers for Education (RCEs) and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP). This policy will ensure that student protection provisions are appropriately extended to anyone serving as a volunteer in Nova Scotia schools.

This policy is effective as of **September 1, 2022** and will replace all existing RCE/former board policies and must not conflict with any existing CSAP policies. All RCEs and the CSAP will be contacting staff in their region to help them understand what this policy means for them.

EECD acknowledges that there are administrative duties associated with this policy and that RCE/CSAP operational staff will play a significant role in its implementation. We are committed to working with RCEs and the CSAP to ensure the policy is successfully implemented across the province.

Originally signed by

Hon. Becky Druhan

Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

Acknowledgements

We thank the following groups and individuals for their input and work on the development of this policy:

- Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU);
- Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia (PSAANS);
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE);
- Nova Scotia Government and General Employment (NSGEU);
- Education and Early Childhood Development staff;
- Regional Centre for Education and Conseil scolaire acadien provincial staff; and,
- Students, parents/guardians, teachers and School Advisory Council members who participated in the consultation process.