

Funding for School-Based Initiatives

BREAKOUT SESSION – SAC CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

Overview

- ▶ SAC Mandate & Funds
 - ▶ Using SAC funds to support student achievement and well-being
- ▶ SAC Innovation Fund
- ▶ Healthy Schools Grant
- ▶ Ideas for Education

SAC MANDATE

SACs work in collaboration with principals and participate in efforts to improve student achievement and the well-being of students and communities by receiving information on the school improvement plan and monitoring the progress and improvement of the identified goal areas

SAC Funds

- ▶ SACs receive \$5,000 per school year, plus \$1 per student (calculated using enrolment on September 30).
- ▶ If an SAC represents multiple schools, each school will receive its own budget of \$5,000 plus \$1 per student (funding must be spent at the school it was allocated to).
- ▶ SAC funding decisions should be made during meetings.
- ▶ Any funds used by SACs must be accounted for and reported on in an annual report that is:
 - Submitted to your RCE/CSAP before the end of the school year.
 - Available to the public.

All expenditures must fit into at least one (1) of these spending categories:

Supporting the school improvement plan (e.g., providing resources to support math and literacy achievement and student well-being).

Supporting policy development and implementation (e.g., supporting and promoting new policies).

Covering SAC operational expenses. Up to 20 per cent of provincial SAC funding may be used as SAC operational expenses, if necessary, to encourage and support member participation.

Healthy Schools Grant

- ▶ The Healthy Schools Grant provides \$5000 + \$1 per student and is intended to support the implementation of the Physical Activity Framework. This will support schools in meeting the well-being goals in their school improvement plan.
- ▶ Examples of how the grant is used, include:
 - ▶ Materials, equipment, and supplies, such as sport equipment, mental health books and resources, or cooking and gardening supplies; and
 - ▶ Field trips, such as trips to swimming pools, skating rinks, and a forest school.
 - ▶ Infrastructure and school upgrades, such as sensory rooms, murals, or bike racks.
 - ▶ School programs and events, such as African dance workshops, cultural presentations, and mental health workshops.
- ▶ SACs should be engaged to determine how best to use grant funds to support student health and well-being.

Examples of How SAC Funds Are Spent

Survey Examples

- School events/presentations (e.g., Neptune Theatre workshops or performances, Family Connections Night event)
- Technology aids (e.g., Chromebooks)
- Classroom resources (e.g., High interest English texts for classrooms)

RCE Examples

- Inclusive Playground equipment (Well-being goal)
- Math manipulatives (Numeracy goal)
- Guided reading tables (Literacy goal)
- Sub release days for specific pd related to goals

01 Comfort Closet

supplies to support student well-being, improvement in attendance and food security.

02 Celebration Meal

The success of all students was acknowledged through a school celebration meal.

03 Youth Health Summit

Youth Health Summit allowed students to spend a day learning about different ways to support their well-being and mental health.

04 Comfortable Seating

School classrooms - received comfortable seating to create calm reading/work spaces in their students.

05 Author Visits

SACs supported school literacy initiatives - contributing to classroom **author visits**.

Family Connections 06

The SAC organized a "Family Connections Night". Families were asked to provide suggestions for activities and resources that they would like made available over the academic year and the SAC was able to follow up on most of the suggestions..

Cultural Meeting Room 07

SAC funding was used to redesign a former library into a **cultural meeting room** which serves as an area for student-led groups, smudges and ceilidhs. SAC also purchased new tables designed for multipurpose use and are coloured to match the Mi'kmaq medicine wheel.

School Play 08

The SAC contributed funds to stage a **school play**, which was a great community building event. Every student in the school performed in the play, developing their self-esteem, resilience, and teamwork skills.

Equity Day 09

SAC supported an **equity day** featuring "Better, not better than" sessions on mental health, hate speech prejudice, and the impact of social media practices on students.

StoryBook Island 10

SAC helped fund **StoryBook Island**. This year, students planted over 400 trees to replenish trees lost from Fiona. Students were able to share their writing on outdoor signs which is accessible to all other classrooms and communities.



Cape Breton-Victoria
Regional Centre for Education

SAC Innovation Fund

- ▶ The SAC Innovation Fund provide grants of up to \$10,000 to SACs.
- ▶ The fund encourages new and innovative ideas to support student achievement and well-being and address real problems experienced by students and schools.
- ▶ This funding is meant to provide SACs with the opportunity to test an idea, which if successful, can be expanded to other schools.
- ▶ Any SAC that supports a public school in Nova Scotia can apply. A joint SAC supporting multiple schools can submit one application per school.
- ▶ The fund may be combined with other available funding to support a project.
- ▶ In 2023-24, 128 applications were received and 26 projects received funding.



SAC Innovation Fund

Champlain Elementary School

THE RIGHT TO BIKE

Biking for Student Well-Being and Community Connections

A set of class bikes shared between grades 3,4, and 5 students to foster well-being and connections.



This project will give children the 'right to bike' by providing a class set of larger bicycles for students in grades 3, 4, and 5 as well as helmets, tools, high visibility vests and hanging hooks. The project includes opportunities to partner with the community, embed bike skills into instructional time (i.e. learning maintenance), and improve physical activity.

OBJECTIVES:

1. BUILD PHYSICAL LITERACY, INCLUDING HAVING STUDENTS LEARN TO RIDE BICYCLES SAFELY.
2. IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN PHYSICAL FITNESS AND STAMINA.
3. IMPROVE SENSE OF BELONGING AND WELL-BEING.
4. PROMOTE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION.
5. CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.

IN THE WORDS OF THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

“There is strong evidence that physical activity has a positive impact on child development, both physically and mentally, and can impact academic achievement.”

SAC Innovation Fund

Bel Ayr Elementary School

ENHANCING WELLBEING THROUGH CREATIVITY AND REPRESENTATION

Artists-in-residence at Bel Ayr Elementary will work with students weekly over 26 weeks to create art to put on display in the school.



This project will bring local artists in to work with all students at the school on various creative projects – with a priority given to racialized artists, particularly those from African Nova Scotian or Mi'kmaw communities.

OBJECTIVES:

INCREASE THE WELLBEING OF STUDENTS BY:

- PROVIDING MORE DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATIVITY AND SELF-EXPRESSION,
- STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STAFF AND STUDENTS, AND
- FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION.

IN THE WORDS OF THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

“We believe that this project will allow students to express themselves in a way that is not typical in school, and it will allow teachers the opportunity to get to know their students in a new way by seeing this creative expression and student strengths outside of academic performance.”

SAC Innovation Fund

Digby Regional High School

VIRTUAL REALITY

The Future of Inclusive Education

Virtual Reality allows educators to immerse students in inclusive, culturally relevant educational experiences that wouldn't otherwise be possible.



This project will provide teachers with access to a Virtual Reality headset that can be used as an educational tool that can support exploration and learning.

OBJECTIVES:

1. PROVIDE AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY THAT IS A POSITIVE, INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE WHILE MEETING ACADEMIC OUTCOMES AND PROMOTING MOVEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM.
2. PROVIDE AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO PROMOTE THE CULTURE OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY AS IT CONTINUES TO DIVERSIFY.
3. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO FEEL THE SCHOOL IS CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND HERITAGE.
4. DECREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO FEEL DISENGAGED DURING LEARNING, ACCORDING TO THE PROVINCIAL SCHOOL SUCCESS SURVEY 2023-24.

IN THE WORDS OF THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

“This new teaching support will provide stimulating and accessible learning opportunities to keep every student engaged, challenged, and inspired ensuring that every student sees themselves reflected throughout their schools, learning resources, and within their learning experiences.”

SAC Innovation Fund

JL Ilsley High School

PROMOTING PURPLE PRIDE

Creating various translated communication tools and school info media for families in the school community.



This project will enable the school to purchase technology and materials to create multimedia productions for that are translated for families that speak a language at home that is not English.

OBJECTIVES:

1. ENHANCE COMMUNICATION AVENUES FOR ALL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES OF JL. ILSLEY.
2. SUPPORT THE 20% OF THE SCHOOL POPULATION THAT HAS A LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME THAT IS NOT ENGLISH.
3. HELP THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NEW CANADIAN FAMILIES AS THEY NAVIGATE A NEW SCHOOL, SYSTEM AND COMMUNITY.

IN THE WORDS OF THE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

“Continuous feedback and improvement mechanisms are embedded within the project, ensuring it adapts to the needs of the community and remains effective.”

About the 2024 Applications

- ▶ Many applications requested funding for playgrounds, but only a small fraction were selected for funding.
- ▶ Applications that requested funding for art or creative endeavors or supplies were the largest category of applications selected for funding.
- ▶ Applications that were selected for funding often focused on more than one area of impact. Common areas of focus were:
 - ▶ Inclusivity/accessibility
 - ▶ Out of classroom learning

Tips for Applying to the Innovation Fund

- ▶ Consider novel approaches to address existing issues and identify opportunities to enhance student achievement and well-being.
 - ▶ Consider if the project could be funded through existing sources or budgets.
- ▶ Link to the school's Student Success Plan and support with data on student achievement and well-being.
- ▶ Consider feasibility, especially regarding timeline (funds are intended to be spent entirely in the upcoming school year).
- ▶ Reflect student and/or community input in the application.

Tips Continued

- ▶ Consider implementation and any challenges that may be face.
 - ▶ Consider if any approvals are needed to move the project forward.
- ▶ Note all expenses: materials, labour, training.
- ▶ If the overall budget for the project exceeds the funds available through the Innovation Fund:
 - ▶ Ensure that you clearly identify which specific element of the project the Innovation Fund will be supporting.
 - ▶ Be sure to indicate all other funding sources to support this project and if these funds have been secured.



Ideas for Education

- ▶ In 2023, Minister Druhan launched the Ideas for Education initiative, an online form where teachers can share ideas to improve learning and teaching.
- ▶ The purpose of Ideas for Education is to listen to and empower staff on the front line, who have good ideas that will improve teaching and learning in Nova Scotia.
- ▶ This initiative helps empower teachers to improve the education system and benefits administrators and staff by supporting their teams to act.



Ideas for Education

- ▶ In 2023-24, eight pilot projects were launched which tested the benefits of:
 - assigning Child and Youth Care Practitioners to specific schools,
 - dedicating a teacher to support students missing a lot of time,
 - creating elementary math specialists to support teachers and students,
 - hiring social workers to support newcomer students and families,
 - providing teacher mentors,
 - hiring term substitutes,
 - expanding the GuysWork program, and
 - enabling more students to attend Forest School programs.
- ▶ Some pilots were unique to one or two RCEs/CSAP while others were province-wide.
- ▶ All eight pilots have been renewed for the 2024-25 school year



Ideas for Education

- ▶ A Teacher Advisory Table, comprised of classroom teachers from across the province, has been assembled to support this initiative.
 - ▶ Review of ideas is underway and new pilots for the 2024-25 school year will be announced soon!
- ▶ Ideas should be focused at the school or family of schools level
- ▶ Teacher that submits the idea will be asked to lead implementation (if appropriate)
- ▶ Submissions should include details on how idea would be implemented, what the objective is, and what evaluation criteria would be used to measure success.



To make a submission or for more information on this initiative please visit our website:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/ideasforeducation>

Thank You

Additional resources and information
available at:

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/SAC>