

# Land Acknowledgement



# Inclusive Education in Nova Scotia

## Well-Being Supports for Students

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# Today's Session

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## 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

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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.**

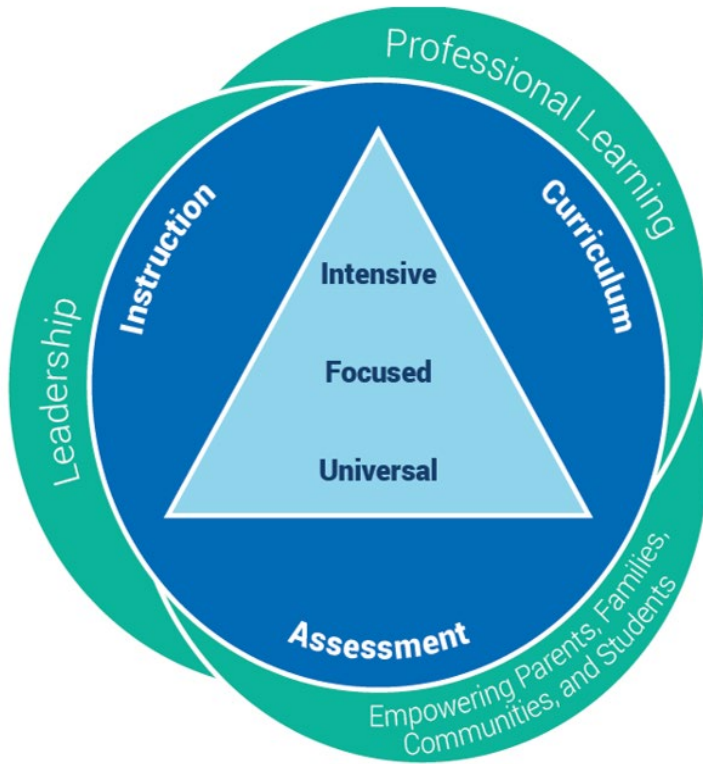
# Gathering your Ideas

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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

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- ✓ 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

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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

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- ✓ 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

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



# Questions?

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# Continuing the Conversation

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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.

