

School Leavers Program

What is the School Leavers Program?

Leaving school is a time of big change with important decisions for students and parents. The School Leavers Program connects students with a community-based planner called a Local Area Coordinator (LAC) who will work with them, their family, their Student Planning Team, and the community to create a Transition Plan for adulthood.

Who is the School Leavers Program for?

The School Leavers Program will centre on grade 12 students who have

- an intellectual developmental disability and/or one or more significant disabilities
- support from a multi-disciplinary team (including Learning Support Teachers and other supports)
- an Individual Program Plan (in the areas of functional academics, social development, and life skills) with a focus on transition planning from school-to-community

The School Leavers Program aims to support 100 students from across the Regional Centres for Education and le Conseil scolaire acadien provincial starting fall 2025.

Why participate?

The School Leavers Program is designed to help students

- gain confidence in next steps after high school
- explore different opportunities and make informed choices
- connect with the right people and supports to succeed

A **School Leaver** is a student with a disability who is planning to move out of school and into the next chapter of their life.

A **Local Area Coordinator (LAC)** is someone who will help students explore options for their future. They will support students in finding local programs, services, and opportunities based on their interests and goals. The LAC will be there to guide students through transition from school to community life.

For more information about the **Human Rights Remedy**, please visit www.dsp-transformation.ca

The School Leavers Program is offered in partnership between the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Disability Support Program.

For more information about the **School Leavers Program**, please visit ednet.ns.ca/school-leavers



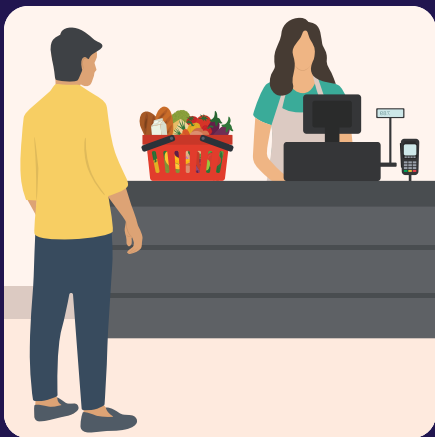
How do I get involved?

- You register for the School Leavers Program
- You are contacted by the LAC
- You invite the LAC to your Student Planning Team meeting
- You work on your Transition Plan

What is transition planning?

Transition planning is all about preparing for what comes next. With your LAC, you will

- talk about your interests, strengths, and goals
- learn about work, volunteering, further education, housing, and social opportunities
- explore independent living and ways to be involved in your community
- identify the supports and services you may need as an adult
- create a plan that helps you confidently take the next steps independently



Who supports transition planning?

Transition planning is a team effort. First of all, your plan includes you, the student! Your voice matters most.

Your plan may also include

- your family or support network
- your Student Planning Team (teachers, learning support staff, etc.)
- your Local Area Coordinator
- community partners who can offer opportunities and support

