



**Education and Early Childhood Development
Office of the Minister**

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June 29, 2023

A Message from Minister Becky Druhan

Re: Your Ideas for Education: pilots for 2023-24

To Nova Scotia's teachers,

Teachers are at the heart of our education system and play a significant role educating and supporting students.

Earlier this year, I asked you for input through *Ideas for Education*. The purpose of this ask was to listen and learn from those of you on the front line, who know the system best and have good ideas that will make both students' and your lives better. We didn't ask for your ideas just to check a box. The Premier explicitly asked the Department to hear teachers out and put your ideas to use.

Some ideas were specific to certain regions of the Province, while others we wanted to trial in pilots to see what would work and what we could scale up. We want to do more of this – especially if it makes life better in the classroom.

Beginning in September, existing teacher initiatives will be expanded, and new ideas coming from teachers (not those sitting in offices in Halifax!) will be piloted. Some will be unique to one or two schools, others will be provincewide.

I want to share a few of the ideas your colleagues created for the 2023-24 school year:

- Create Elementary Math Specialists (like physical education / music *or* implement as a team-teaching model)
- Assign Child and Youth Care Practitioners (CYCPs) to specific classrooms
- Expand existing junior high school support group models
- Expand programs like GuysWork to promote healthy masculinity in our schools
- Hire more term substitute teachers, and
- Reinstate provincial attendance policy

We want your feedback on what's working and what's not. One of the biggest concerns we hear is that no one in Halifax is listening. I am and we are. So if you are sitting in your classroom doing an administrative task that just doesn't make sense to you – tell us and let us know a proposed solution. We will do our best to implement it.

Similarly, as we roll out these pilots (that are intended to make life better) and you see flaws or issues, tell us. We will do our best to get it right, but you are the closest to the practical implications of these initiatives, so if there are issues – tell us and we'll do our best to fix them.

The Ideas for Education Portal, <https://ideasforeducation.ca> will be updated regularly as we introduce additional pilot projects. Continue to share your voice, your experience and your ideas to strengthen Nova Scotia's public education system.

Our government is eager to try new approaches and ideas that you believe will make a difference. We all want the best for our children. Thank you for helping us make our education system the best it can possibly be.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Becky Druhan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Becky Druhan
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development