

Education System Administrative Review

TERMS OF REFERENCE

October 2017

Education is the foundation for ensuring that Nova Scotia has engaged citizens, strong communities and robust economic growth. The Government of Nova Scotia is committed to improving student outcomes and classroom conditions. We believe that an effective education system must have student learning and success at the centre, supported by high standards for teaching and leadership, a relevant curriculum, and a strong governance and administrative framework that ensures all elements are working together.

There has been a focus in Nova Scotia on improvements to our education system aimed at increased student learning and success, including new standards for teaching and leadership, an updated provincial curriculum, the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions, and the Commission on Inclusive Education.

The Education System Administrative Review is the next step in achieving system-wide improvements by examining our existing governance and administrative structure and making recommendations for a new effective and efficient model that supports a cohesive and student-centered education system.

PURPOSE

With the goal of a student-centred and cohesive education system, the Province will engage an independent consultant to conduct a comprehensive review, which will include extensive engagement and consultation with key education partners and the public, of how Nova Scotia public schools are governed, including school boards (governing school boards and central office administration) and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The Review will inform recommendations to government regarding the governance of the education system and associated administrative procedures and processes.

AREAS OF FOCUS

In consultation with education partners, including school boards and the department, and the public, the consultant will **conduct a review** with a focus on a student-centered education system and **make recommendations for improvement** in the following areas:

1. Roles, responsibilities, and administrative structure within the education system including governing school boards, school board central office administration, and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

2. Processes and management structure in all areas of administration and operations (e.g. human resources, finance, transportation, programs) to ensure effective and efficient use of resources.
3. Increased accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in decision making including budgetary decisions and resource allocation.
4. Strengthening interagency service delivery for children, youth, and their families.

The Review will also consider the cultural, linguistic and geographic contexts of the Nova Scotia education system and current government priorities for public education.

DELIVERABLES

The Independent Consultant will submit a report of their findings, including recommended options as outlined in the Areas of Focus. The Consultant will provide periodic status reports in a format and schedule mutually agreed upon by the Consultant and Department.

TIMELINES

The Review will commence immediately upon the selection of the Independent Consultant, with a final report submitted by the Consultant to the Department by December 31, 2017.