

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Responsibilities

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

This branch is composed of Office of the Minister, Office of the Deputy Minister, Office of the Associate Deputy Minister, Executive Advisor to the Deputy Minister for Policy and Stakeholder Liaison, the Executive Lead for the Commission on Inclusive Education, and Regional Executive Directors of the Regional Centres for Education. This branch provides overall direction, coordination, and management of education and early childhood programs and activities.

STRATEGIC POLICY, RCE LIAISON, AND RESEARCH

This branch is composed of Policy and Planning, Research Analytics and Information Management, Teacher Certification, and Regional Education Services. It is responsible for providing services to all areas of the department; including advice and support in policy and planning, legislation, research, information and records management, data and statistics, and publishing and design services. Regional Education Services act in a liaison and advisory role with the Regional Centres for Education (RCE) on all matters related to the *Education Act* and regulations, as well as home-based and private schooling. This branch is responsible for all matters related to teacher certification.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

This branch is composed of Early Years Integration and the Pre-Primary Program. The branch also works with provincial, regional, and community partners to ensure department policies and programs are evidence-based and support early learning and healthy child development.

REGULATED CHILD CARE AND LICENSING

This branch is composed of Early Childhood Development Services, and Licensing. It is responsible for developing child and family-centred policies, regulations, and programs for children with a focus on the establishment of an integrated early years system.

CENTRE FOR EQUITY IN ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL-BEING

This branch is composed of Teacher Education, Student Assessment and Evaluation, Student Achievement, Educational Research and Partnerships, and Education Research & Best Practices in African Nova Scotian Learners. It is responsible for provincial,

national and international assessments, school and system improvement planning, and for providing leadership in the design, implementation, and research of innovations in education. This branch works with multiple partners in education and is responsible for introducing new models of teacher education, accreditation of university schools of education, teacher performance appraisal, professional learning, leadership development, and research in Nova Scotia schools.

EDUCATION INNOVATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

This branch is composed of Innovative Curriculum Development, Learning Resources and Technology, Career Exploration and Experimental Learning, Personal Development and Wellness, and International Programs. It is responsible for the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and courses, and learning supports and resources to meet the learning needs of all students so they can reach their full potential. This branch encompasses on-line learning opportunities (Nova Scotia Virtual School), the Nova Scotia School Book Bureau, Innovation Center, and media supports. This branch also provides professional development leadership and delivery on all aspects of the public-school program.

STUDENT SERVICES AND EQUITY

This branch is responsible for creating, developing, implementing, and evaluating public school student support programs and services. It provides the leadership to strengthen the department's ability to respond equitably and effectively to all students including those with special needs throughout the province.

AFRICAN CANADIAN SERVICES

This branch is accountable, in collaboration with other branches and partners, for providing overall strategic leadership for the programs and services that pertain to African Nova Scotia learners. It establishes and maintains partnerships and agreements with other provincial government departments, institutions and community-based agencies to ensure a cohesive and collaborative approach to meet the needs of teachers, parents, and students.

MI'KMAQ SERVICES

This branch is accountable, in collaboration with other branches and partners, for providing overall strategic leadership for the programs and services that pertain to Mi'kmaq learners in Nova Scotia. It establishes and maintains partnerships and agreements with other government departments (federal, provincial, and interprovincial), institutions and community-based agencies to ensure a cohesive and collaborative approach to meet the needs of Mi'kmaq teachers, parents, and students.

FRENCH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BRANCH

This branch is composed of French First Language, French Second Language, and French Language Services. It is responsible for the effective design, development, piloting, implementation, and evaluation of programs and courses for Nova Scotia's French second language public school programs, grades primary to 12, and for working in partnership with the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) regarding French first language programs and services. This branch also provides direction, leadership, and consultative / advisory services to regions/school boards and their professional staff on matters pertaining to French public-school programs.

Active Agencies, Boards, and Commissions

- Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority
- Certification Appeals Committee
- Council on African-Canadian Education
- Council on Mi'kmaq Education
- Provincial Advisory Council on Education
- Teachers College Foundation
- Tuition Appeal Board

Acts Administered

- *Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority Act*
- *Day Care Act*
- *Education Act*
- *Education (CSAP) Act / Loi concernant l'éducation (CSAP)*
- *Education Reform (2018) Act*
- *Hospital Education Assistance Act*
- *Mi'kmaq Education Act*
- *Nova Scotia Teachers College Foundation Act*
- *Pre-Primary Education Act (2005)*
- *Teachers Collective Bargaining Act*
- *Teachers' Professional Agreement and Classroom Improvements Act (2017)*
- *Teaching Profession Act*

Administrative update: **August 26, 2019**
