

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, the Executive Lead for Inclusive Education and Executive Lead for Early Learning Priorities and Initiatives. 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 AND PRE-PRIMARY

This branch is composed of Early Years Integration and the Pre-Primary Program. The branch works with provincial, regional, and community partners to ensure department policies and programs are evidence-based and support early learning and healthy child development. This branch is responsible for the implementation of the Canada - Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Child Care Agreement.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

This branch is composed of Early Childhood Development Services and Licensing. It is responsible for developing child and family-centred policies, regulations, and childcare 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 Student Assessment and Evaluation, Student Achievement, Leadership, and Educational Research on the Achievement Gap and Best Practices in African Nova Scotian Learners. It is responsible for provincial, national and

international assessments, and school and system improvement planning. 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 growth and evaluation, learning and leadership development.

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 provides strategic leadership and direction, in collaboration with a wide range of partners, for the creation, development, implementation, and evaluation of public school student support programs and services, SchoolsPlus and integrated services. It provides leadership to strengthen the department's ability to respond equitably and effectively to all students. The branch 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 students, parent/guardians, school and regionally based staff.

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 Scotian/African Canadian 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*
- *Early Learning and Child 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: **June 17, 2022**
