



Newfoundland and Labrador English School District  
**Quarterly Report**

October 3, 2015

## Introduction

School year 2015-2016 is well underway and thanks to the planning and hard work of school and district staff, the start-up unfolded smoothly and was a positive experience for students. There are several reasons for celebration, in this our third year of operation as the NL English School District. For example, our staffing process was streamlined and positions were substantially filled for September much earlier than last year. We also had two new state of the art schools open for this year: Waterford Valley High and Corner Brook Intermediate, as well as several substantial renovations completed. However, the most important cause for celebration has been the steady progress in our provincial high school graduation rates. As indicated in the table below, the NLESD has more students graduating from high school than ever before, and more students graduating with an academic or honours certificate. This long-term progress is the direct result of the dedication and focus of staff at all levels and a substantial shift in our educational culture over time.

### Provincial Graduation Rates 2003-04 Versus 2014-15

<b>2003-04</b>	<b>% Grad</b>	<b>% HON</b>	<b>% ACA</b>	<b>% GEN</b>
Province	87.4	22.4	38.5	39.1
Region 1	81.5	25.5	37.7	36.8
Region 2	89.8	20.0	35.0	45.0
Region 3	87.3	20.1	29.4	50.5
Region 4	87.2	24.0	43.3	32.6
<b>2014-15</b>	<b>% Grad</b>	<b>% HON</b>	<b>% ACA</b>	<b>% GEN</b>
Province	94.4	30.8	41.0	28.2
Region 1	93.6	16.1	40.0	43.9
Region 2	94.4	29.3	41.8	28.9
Region 3	96.1	31.1	38.1	30.8
Region 4	94.3	32.9	42.3	24.8

The NLESD is heading into year two of our three year strategic plan. In July the Senior Management Team held a one-day session to review the activities from the previous year and to plan for 2015-2016 regarding our strategic priorities. A follow-up session was also held with the provincial leadership group. The intent is to continue, and where appropriate to expand, the initiatives started in year one.



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## Issue One: Student Success

### **Goal 1:**

**By June 30, 2017**, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board will have enhanced supports for student success in literacy and numeracy.

### **Objective II:**

By June 30, 2016, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board will have continued implementation of strategies to enhance student success in literacy and numeracy.

### **Priorities:**

#### **Literacy Plan and Assessment Framework**

Over the summer and leading into the start of the school year, district staff revised the NLESD Literacy for Learning Plan and Assessment Framework. The K-6 Plan has been restructured to be more in line with school growth and development plans, and to take the District to 2020. A K-6 Language Arts Assessment Portfolio was revised and expanded to include French Immersion and Intensive Core French. Support documents were also developed to provide clearer direction for teachers. All documents were provided to schools in September. Work will continue in each region to roll out the Plan with schools and to support their implementation through professional learning opportunities.

#### **Benchmark Assessment Systems (BAS)**

The District is continuing with the implementation of BAS 1 and BAS 2 with grades 1 and 4. Last year the roll-out was conducted with Kindergarten and grade 3 students, and over the next two years it will

be implemented with grades 2 and 5 and then grades 3 and 6 students. Training this year on the BAS will be offered in two modules, an introductory module and a more advanced full-day session.

#### **Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI)**

The LLI pilot will continue this year and kits will also be made available to an additional 15 schools. Evaluation will continue on the impact of LLI on learning for students at risk.

#### **Numeracy Grades 7-12**

Work is underway to develop video resources to address areas of difficulty in grade 8 Math and Math 2201. Professional learning will also be offered in support of the resources developed last year for grade 7 Math and Math 1201, with a focus on areas of Math that are challenging for students.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Technologies**

The District will continue to facilitate the use of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Technologies for teaching and learning. 2015-2016 will be the second year of the pilot project for DreamBox software. The pilot will continue with the cohort of students who moved from grade 2 to grade 3. It is being conducted in 34 schools with approximately 1600 students. The purpose of the pilot project is to determine whether students' participation can have a positive impact on their achievement in Mathematics. Survey results from the first year will be used to identify areas for improvement in this school year.

The District will also continue to promote the district-wide instance of Google Apps for Education.



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## Issue Two: Safe and Caring Schools

### **Goal 2:**

**By June 30, 2017**, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board will have enhanced school environments to ensure students can learn in safe, caring and healthy settings.

### **Objective II:**

By June 30, 2016, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board will have continued to implement initiatives to support safe, caring and healthy environments that are conducive to learning.

### **Priorities:**

#### **Online Safety and Digital Citizenship Resources**

A review was conducted of the online safety and digital citizenship resources and they were updated and distributed to all schools in September. Grade clusters are again expected to deliver elements of the program over the course of the school year. The resources are supplemented by the roll-out of the District's Social Media Policy and Terms of Use for both students and staff.

#### **Positive Behaviour Supports (PBS) and Bullying Protocol**

Last year each region developed a plan to roll out PBS and the Bullying Protocol to all schools and identified priority schools for support. The Safe and Caring Schools Itinerant Teachers in all four regions are supporting the implementation and each region is confirming the priority schools for support in the 2015-2016 school year.

The District is also beginning to implement Review 360, which will 'go live' in early October. The Review 360 software is connected with PowerSchool and will be used to track student behavioural and disciplinary data, which will be assessed in conjunction with PBS and help schools to target areas for improvement.

In partnership with the EECD, a training plan is being implemented, to ensure a more inclusive school environment for LGBTQ students. The long-term plan involves partnering with EGALÉ to train 50 teaching staff, who will then be facilitators of training throughout the District. The District will also develop a policy in the coming year to enhance inclusion for transgendered students.

#### **Enhancement of School Entrance Systems**

Work continues to enhance school entrance systems as resources permit, based on a school environmental scan conducted last year.

#### **Supporting Positive Mental Health**

A provincial working group established in March 2015 will continue to meet in the coming school year. The group is currently reviewing programs and best practices for promoting positive mental health with students. The District focus for 2015-2016 is to provide information and training for school staff to enhance awareness. The District will partner with the School Administrators' Council (SAC) to offer two sessions with Dr. Stan Kutcher on Mental Health. Dr. Kutcher is a psychiatry professor at Dalhousie University and is associated with the IWK Health Centre in Halifax. Over the coming year the District will also support the delivery of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and other training for teaching staff.



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## Issue Three: Organizational Effectiveness

### Goal 3:

By June 30, 2017, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board will have enhanced organizational effectiveness.

### Objective II:

By June 30, 2016, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board will have further enhanced select technological systems and select administrative practices to support teaching, learning and the operations of the district.

### School Planning Systems

The District will continue implementing Baragar, the school planning software, to assist with multi-year planning and the monitoring of province-wide school enrollment projections. Focus areas are: Conception Bay South, Grand Falls-Windsor and Corner Brook (former G.C. Rowe Building).

### Electronic Personnel Systems

Work will continue to enhance and expand the functionality of electronic personnel systems such as SDS and the electronic personnel package. A SmartFind Express Pilot Project, initiated last year, will continue in the Fall in the Gander area and is expected to be expanded across the province over the next two years, to assist with call-in of substitute teachers and student assistants.

### Electronic student information system

As of September 2015, 231 schools were using PowerSchool. PowerSchool will be implemented in the rest of the schools in the District this year.

Initial contact has been made with those 26 schools and training will commence in February 2016.

### District Policies

Policy development continues and consultations were held during school leadership meetings on several policies, including *Student Suspensions* and *Student Records*. Further consultations are also planned regarding the draft *Assessment and Evaluation Policy*. A number of new policies are now coming forward to the Board for consideration, including the *Administration of Medications Policy*.

### Communications

The Communications Division drafted and implemented a Back to School communications plan, which included development of a parent/guardian and student oriented resource webpage and social media communications plan. A communications plan for the 2015-2016 school year was also developed, to identify priorities for this school year. A survey was circulated to schools to receive feedback on the Social Media Digital Safety Resources, the Media Guidebook for Administrators was updated, and employee materials for *ATIPPA* and the NLESD *Social Media Policy* were developed. Work also commenced on a bus safety video for students.

## Summary

This report covers July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015 and reviews the preliminary work carried out in year two of our three-year Strategic Plan. Based on progress to date, it is expected that the NLESD will be able to meet the outcomes as established in our Strategic Plan 2014-2017.