

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD FOCUS ON LEARNING: ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

PURPOSE: The purpose of this report is to inform the Governing Board on the significance of immigration to our school populations while addressing the requirement to support culturally and linguistically diverse students in our classrooms.

BACKGROUND: The attraction and retention of immigrants to Nova Scotia is vital in addressing our economic and demographic challenges. Our schools throughout HRSB play an essential role in ensuring all newcomer students and their families are welcomed to their new communities. The English as an Additional Language (EAL) program is integral in the settlement process of newcomer students and their families to their new school communities.

EAL is focused on student success by supporting English language learning through the content areas. Students who are becoming bilingual or multilingual require explicit academic language instruction while at the various proficiency levels of English. EAL is a necessary bridge to newcomer immigrant children and youth in primary to grade 12 to ensure academic achievement in meeting the Public School Program curriculum outcomes. EAL supports students, classroom teachers, school administrators and parents.

CONTENT: PowerPoint presentation: Our Changing Students: Looking through a Multilingual Lens.

COST: N/A

FUNDING: Funding for this ongoing support is provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the NS Office of Immigration and HRSB.

TIMELINE: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended the Governing Board accept this Focus on Learning: English as an Additional Language report for information

COMMUNICATIONS:	AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
	Governing Board	Alison King Director, Program Sonja Grcic-Stuart EAL Consultant	October 22, 2014

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To: Governing Board – October 22, 2014
Senior Staff – October 14, 2014