

## **Halifax Regional School Board**

### **Focus on Learning: Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Governing Board Members with an overview of the Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program (CGCP) in the Halifax Regional School Board.

#### **Background**

The CGCP was piloted in 1996 and continues to be the recommended program for guidance and counselling in Nova Scotia public schools by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. It provides for the integration of guidance and counselling services into a comprehensive model that crosses the curricula to address student needs through well-defined learning outcomes.

The CGCP is designed to assist the Personal, Social, Educational, and Career Development of all students from grades Primary to Twelve. It is comprised of four main components: (1) Guidance Curriculum, (2) Professional Services, (3) Life/Career Planning, and (4) Program Management and System Support. The Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program is a central component within a school's learning environment.

To support the continued implementation of the Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program, a Guidance Support Team was formed in 2012 to provide professional development at each level (i.e. elementary, junior, and senior high). This year's Professional Learning Community Pilot gives guidance counsellors dedicated time to collaborate with their specialized peers and inform their Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling practices in the service of all students.

There are currently 96.6 FTEs assigned to guidance positions supporting 109 schools within the HRSB. In 2016-2017, 9.0 FTEs for elementary guidance were added to the system following a review of provincial ratios of 1:500. An additional 7.0 FTEs have been included in the 2017-2018 budget.

#### **Content**

The presentation will include a PowerPoint highlighting the overarching program and shared experiences from two of our Guidance Support Team Members (P-12).

#### **Funding Details**

N/A

#### **Timeline**

N/A

#### **Appendices**

Fact Sheet (1); Appendix A

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended the Governing Board members receive the report for information.

## **Communications**

<b>AUDIENCE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
<b>Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Alison King</b>	<b>May 10, 2017</b>

## **Contact**

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# Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

## Program History

The CGCP was piloted in 1996 and continues to be the recommended program for guidance and counselling in Nova Scotia public schools by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. A link to the online provincial program document is provided:

<https://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/Comp%20Guidance%20and%20Couns%20Prog.pdf>

The CGCP is designed to assist the personal, social, educational, and career development of all students from Grades Primary to Twelve. It is comprised of four main components: (1) Guidance Curriculum (2) Professional Services (3) Life/Career Planning (4) Program Management and System Support.

## What is the Program?

A Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program is designed to assist the personal, social, educational and career development of students. It is a total school program that requires a professionally qualified guidance counsellor for full implementation. The Program is advised by a committee consisting of a guidance counsellor, school administrators, teen health centre coordinator, teachers, non-teaching staff, students, parents, and community members.

A Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program has defined benefits and outcomes for all students and is developed locally through needs assessments within provincial guidelines. There are four main components:

### (I) Guidance Curriculum

Structured experiences presented systematically through classroom and group activities.

### (II) Professional Services

Counselling, consultation, and coordination activities to meet the immediate needs and concerns of students.

### (III) Life/Career Planning

Activities which assist students to monitor and manage their own learning and make plans for life & career development.

### (IV) Program Management & System Support

Activities, which establish, manage, maintain and enhance the Program.

## Advisory Committee

A Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Advisory Committee is formed at the beginning of each school year. The Advisory Committee, coordinated by the guidance counsellor, is comprised of school administrators (principal and vice principal), teen health centre coordinator, teachers, non-teaching staff, students, parents, and community members. The purpose of the committee is to give members an opportunity for valuable and meaningful input into guidance and counselling programs and services. Its mandate is to conduct a needs assessment at the school and determine what resources are available to meet those needs. Ongoing evaluation takes place throughout the school year.

## Needs Assessment

Each school year, a needs assessment is conducted as part of the Comprehensive Guidance and Counselling Program. The first needs assessment, conducted in 1996, included a school-wide survey of students, staff, and parents/guardians. Once a committee is formed, the information regarding priorities is obtained from students, teachers, non-teaching staff, administrators, parents, and community members. The committee then creates a strategic plan to address the priority needs of the school.

Each school year, focus groups are held with stakeholders to determine the needs at the school. An evaluation of programs and services is ongoing.

