

Halifax Regional School Board Focus on Learning: Literacy Strategy

Purpose

To provide the Governing Board members information on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Provincial Literacy Strategy.

Background

The Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) remains focused on providing a high quality education for every student every day and is committed to supporting the initiatives and actions outlined in the *3Rs: Nova Scotia Action Plan for Education 2015*. One of the four business plan goals for the 2016-2017 school year: *To improve student achievement* is aligned with these two foci. A board priority identified to reach this goal is to implement the provincial literacy strategy for grades primary – 12.

In May, 2016 the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) released the Nova Scotia Provincial Literacy Strategy. This strategy identifies the goal that “Nova Scotia students will achieve a high level of literacy so that they can thrive in school and beyond.” The Literacy Strategy outlines ways the EECD will support students and teachers in achieving this goal.

Content

The actions outlined in the EECD Literacy Strategy to support students and teachers in strengthening literacy include both staffing supports and curriculum and instruction supports. Staffing allocation to support literacy instruction has been increased to include two literacy lead positions, 10 literacy coaches, 26.9 early literacy teachers, and an expansion of Reading Recovery. In addition to this targeted funding, the HRSB assigns additional allocations to coaching and early literacy positions from the general fund.

The Primary to 12 literacy curriculum is being clarified and strengthened to provide clear expectations for speaking and listening, reading and writing, or other ways of communicating at each grade level. The EECD is developing a curriculum website that will house the curriculum and all supporting resources for easier teacher access. High leverage literacy practices including culturally relevant pedagogy spanning grades Primary to 12 have been identified and have been the focus of professional development for teachers, starting with grades P-3. Professional development has also been provided to literacy coaches focusing on a student centered approach to coaching.

Funding Details

N/A

Timeline

Ongoing

Appendices

Please see attached PowerPoint.

Recommendations

Recommend that the Governing Board Members accept this report for information.

Communications

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Committee of the Whole	Alison King	May 10, 2017

Contact

For further information, please contact Alison King, Director, Program and Student Services at aking@hrsb.ca or 464 2000 ext. 2567