

**HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
HIGH SCHOOL GRADE CONFIGURATION
(Revised September 18, 2012)**

PURPOSE:	To seek Board approval for locating grade nine students in the current grade ten to twelve high schools in HRSB as soon as space becomes available.
BUSINESS PLAN GOAL:	To continue to improve student achievement and learning for all students.
BACKGROUND:	<p>Many jurisdictions in North America create high schools with a grade 9-12 configuration. Across Canada, students in grade nine can be in the last year of junior high or the first year of senior high school. The facilities and needs in the community are considered when assigning students to a school. In many cases it depends on the space available in the schools.</p> <p>Currently, in HRSB there are two high schools serving grades 7-12, one high school serving grades 9-12, with the remaining twelve high schools serving grades 10-12. The motion passed at the May Board Meeting on May 23, 2012 will result in Sackville High and Millwood High accommodating the grade 9 classes.</p>
CONTENT:	<p>The provincial multi-year plan for student success, <i>kids & learning first</i>, states the following:</p> <p>Review and improve grade 9, a critical transition year, so students stay interested in school and are better prepared for high school. The review involves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- what students are being taught- how they are taught and tested- how students themselves can actively influence their learning- how to strengthen connections between what is taught in the classroom and what can be experienced in the community, workplace, and the world. Having more high schools include grades 9 to 12 students, versus 10 to 12, is one approach. Grade 9 students would then have access to larger programming spaces— from libraries to labs to gyms—and more specialist teachers. As well, high school programs like skilled trades could more easily expand to include grade 9 students. <p>The opportunity to take advantage of the facilities and programs offered at the high school level would be beneficial to students in grade 9 and provide a setting that could create more student engagement a factor in keeping students in school.</p> <p>Staff recommends to the Board that, considering the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the direction of the province regarding grade 9 students;• declining enrolments;• ability to consolidate space;• ability to maximize the expertise of teachers; <p>that the HRSB establish high schools that will serve students in grades 9-12 wherever and whenever it is possible to accommodate the students:</p>
COST:	N/A
FUNDING:	N/A
TIMELINE:	N/A

APPENDICES: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: Senior Staff recommends to the Board to establish a high school configuration of Grade 9-12 where possible when space is available to accommodate the students.

COMMUNICATIONS:

AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Senior Staff	Danielle McNeil-Hessian	September 10, 2012
Junior and Senior High School Principals	Danielle McNeil-Hessian	September 26, 2012

From: For further information please contact Danielle McNeil-Hessian, Director – School Administration at dhessian@hrsb.ns.ca or by phone at 464-2000 (Ext 2275) or Ron Heiman, Director – Operation Services at rheiman@hrsb.ns.ca or by phone at 464-2000 (Ext 5110).

To: Senior Staff – September 10, 2012
Full Board – September 26, 2012