

Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE)
Key Budget Messages 2018-19

Provincially, we are part of a system that is entirely focused on student achievement within a safe and inclusive education system. The Province has made significant investments in order to implement the recommendations of the Commission for Inclusive Education, the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions and the work of Dr. Avis Glaze, author of the “Raise the Bar” report. A number of positive, progressive investments will be made this year that will improve our ability to respond to student needs.

- 190 new specialists and student and family supports are coming to Nova Scotia classrooms this September, such as behavior support specialists, autism support teachers, parent navigators and child and youth care practitioners.
- Province-wide, class caps will remain in place for all grade levels and 57 more high school teachers are coming to rural areas, on top of 153 new P-12 teachers added to the system last year.
- SchoolsPlus and Reading Recovery continues to expand across the province. Every student in every school will have access to SchoolsPlus and Reading Recovery services by the 2019/20 school year.

Lastly, pre-primary is in its second phase of expansion, with 130 more classrooms added this year across Nova Scotia.

We're growing!

- HRCE's budget includes resources to support enrollment growth, opening of the new Island View High School and expansion of 30 more pre-primary program classrooms in 18 schools.

Learning!

- Budget includes resources from the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions, provincial allocations in response to the Inclusion Commission and additional resources to support inclusion and equitable education.
- Budget supports families through continued programs (ex. EXCEL), expanded programs (ex. alternative education) and strategic partnerships (ex. Halifax Regional Municipality, Public Health, YMCA, Black Educators Association).
- Budget is aligned to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Business Plan (2018-19) and ensures compliance with such things as class cap guidelines.

Q&A

- Commission on Inclusive Education
 - I don't see this in the budget – is it included?
The general fund budget includes all anticipated funding and expenditures, regardless of source. The funding and expenditures related to the commission on inclusive education are included in this budget, and reflect the details announced by the province earlier this year. The provincial information can be found here: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/inclusiveeducation> (Supplementary funding revenues and expenditures, provided by the Halifax Regional Municipality, are included in the Supplementary Fund budget.)
- Council to Improve Classroom Conditions
 - Does the Council to improve Classroom Conditions provide funding to RCEs/CSAP?

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- The Province committed \$20m to implement the recommendations from the Council in 2018-19. This funding was included in the EECD budget, and EECD provides the funding to RCEs/CSAP based on the Council's approved recommendations. The financial impact of the Council recommendations made up to May 2018 are included in the budget.
- Budget process
 - How is the budget developed without elected boards in place?
 - The budget development process begins with the funding allocation from the province. The province provides operational and targeted funding, and also outlines new investments (e.g. funding related to inclusive education). Senior management at the RCE identify financial requirements for the upcoming fiscal year. This includes information on contract and wage increases for union and non-unions, costs for student transportation, school maintenance, etc. School based staffing is connected to student enrolment projections for the upcoming school year. In the new structure this is a much more collaborative process with EECD.