

Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE)
Key Budget Messages 2021-2022

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education wants to give our students the tools and support they need to succeed. That's why every year, we work closely with schools, Regional and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development staff to ensure we match funding to our region's needs.

Our 2021-22 budget* includes both new and continued support for students and families in our region, and is highlighted by the following:

We continue to grow!

- Budget includes up to 13 additional classroom teachers to support projected enrollment growth.
- Budget includes an increase of \$2 million to support the continued growth in Pre-Primary enrollment. Since September 2020, all 4-year-olds in our region have access to Pre-Primary – a play-based program that supports young children's development.
- Budget includes up to 1.6 additional vice-principals to support schools with growing populations.
- Budget includes an additional 4.5 custodial positions to support the cleaning and maintenance of new school and modular classroom spaces.
- Budget includes two new Information Technology positions to support the enhanced technology infrastructure in place to support student learning.
- Our focus on keeping class sizes small ensures compliance with provincial class cap guidelines for the Pre-Primary program and Grades P to 12.

We are focused on an Inclusive Education System!

The HRCE is committed to ensuring a high quality, culturally and linguistically responsive and equitable education system is in place to support the well-being and achievement of every student.

- Budget includes an additional 22 school counsellors to support the diverse needs of students.
- Budget includes an additional 11 Learning Centre teachers to maximize the learning experiences for students who require additional learning supports to be successful.
- Budget includes an additional 45 Educational Program Assistants to support students with diverse needs.
- In addition, budget will include additional specialist positions (i.e. English as an Additional Language teachers, psychologists, speech language pathologists, autism staff and Child and Youth Care Practitioners) to support the success of all students.

- Budget includes additional supports for SchoolsPlus, a program which helps students and families make connections to support services like social work, justice, mental health and recreation services.
- Budget includes 1.8 more administrative assistants to support the efficient operation of schools.
- An additional \$72,000 has been allocated to ensure the safety and security of all students through implementation of the new provincial Student Protection Policy.

To view the HRCE budget in detail, visit the Financial Services section of the HRCE website at: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/financial-services> .

** The development of our 2021-22 budget began in the Fall of 2020. Our budget assumptions are always based on projected information, and 2021-22 is no different. We continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 in 2021-22 and are forecasting the financial impact to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The HRCE forecast information continues to be part of the Province of Nova Scotia quarterly updates.*