

NOVA SCOTIA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFILE NOVEMBER 2011

GOVERNANCE

Nova Scotia: Governance structure early childhood education	
Lead Ministry/ Department	Department of Community Services Department of Education
Policy Framework	No integrated early childhood education framework
Legislation	Day Care Act, Chapter 120, S.1, of the Revised Statutes, 1989 Day Care Regulations made under Section 15 of the Day Care Act R.S.N.S 1989, c. 120 O.I.C 2010-456), N.S. Reg. 193/2010 as amended by O.I.C. 2011-116, N.S. Reg. 155/2011, March 29, 2011, effective April 1, 2011. http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/dayregs.htm
Related Legislation	Education Act and Regulation (1995-96, amended 1998, 2000, 2002) http://gov.ns.ca/JUST/regulations/regs/edmin.htm Pre-primary Education Act (2005) http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/preprimy.htm
Public oversight/advisory	Child and Youth Strategy http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/ChildandYouthStrategy.html
Local service delivery	Primary programs delivered in 8 school boards Child care is administered through four regions

Department organization

The Public Schools Branch of the Department of Education designs, develops, implements, and evaluates programs, courses, services, related policies and resources including student and teaching resources to support implementation, for the public school system, correspondence studies, and on-line learning. This branch co-ordinates early learning programs.

The Department of Community Services is responsible for community-based, prevention-oriented services to children, youth, and their families.

The Department of Community Services does initial and ongoing inspections of child care facilities and family home day care agencies. This is conducted by the Licensing Services branch. Licensing Officers conduct annual inspections, unannounced inspections and monitor for compliance.

The Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) branch is responsible for the policy and program development for licensed child care facilities/agencies. Early Childhood Development Consultants (ECDC's) provide program, policy support to licensed child care facilities and family home day care agencies and consult with applicants seeking to operate licensed child care facilities.

Policy framework

The focus of the 10-year Early Learning and Child Care Plan (est. 2006) was to increase the number of child care spaces and subsidies; and to continue to provide support to the child care sector.

Service design

Kindergarten: Primary is full-time and attendance compulsory. Children are eligible if five years old by December 31.

School-offered early learning programs for 4-year-olds: The Halifax Regional School Board offers Early Learning Opportunities (ELO) in 5 schools; the Strait Regional School Board offers the School Transition

Entry Program (STEP) in one school (in partnership with Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation), African Canadian Services Division, Department of Education offers 4+ in 2 school sites in the province, and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial offers Grandir en français throughout the province. Early learning programs offered to four-year-olds by schools are exempt from child care regulations.

In April 2011, the department of Education announced that the SchoolsPlus pilot program would be expanded to all eight school boards. Family resource centres, child care and youth health centres will be located within select schools at all school boards. Previously the province established SchoolsPlus as a pilot in four school boards. This expansion builds on the success of the pilot and establishes new hub sites in Conseil scolaire acadien provincial and the Annapolis Valley, Cape Breton-Victoria, and Tri-County regional school boards.

Regulated child care service types: Child care in centres includes: full-time, part-time, and school-age care. Child care in homes includes: family home day care agencies and care provider homes.

Public oversight/advisory

The Child and Youth Strategy includes government departments: Health and Wellness, Community Services, Justice and Education, and Health Promotion. Also included are five service sectors, four regional delivery systems and nine local community tables. The goal is to enabling government to develop and implement local and province wide initiatives which are increasing access to services for families in communities across Nova Scotia through better collaboration.

http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/department/documents/CY_Update_3_english.pdf

Local service delivery

Eight school boards deliver the Primary curriculum as part of the Public School Program. Several boards offer early learning programs to four-year-old within their schools, apart from the Public School Program.

Licensed child care programs are required to have Parent Committees that must meet at least each year to discuss the operation of the program.

FUNDING

Nova Scotia: Funding early childhood education/child care 2011-2012	
Primary (kindergarten) ¹	\$74,700,000
Early learning programs ²	\$1,350,000
Licensed child care ³	\$53,500,000
Total ECE spending	\$129,550,000
Total provincial budget ⁴	\$9,337,000,000
ECE as % of provincial budget	1.39%
1. 8400 children [http://stats-summary.ednet.ns.ca/] x \$8890/child [Brockington, R. (2010) <i>Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009</i> , Statistics Canada plus COLA]	
2. 20 school-offered early learning programs x \$65,000,000/year	
3. Nova Scotia 2011 Budget, Estimates and Supplementary Detail. www.gov.ns.ca/budget2011/	
4. Nova Scotia 2011/2012 budget http://www.gov.ns.ca/budget2011/	

Nova Scotia: Regulated child care spending breakdown¹	
Program funding	47%
Special needs	16%
Fee subsidies	37%
1. Department of Community Services, February 2011 and Beach et al (2009) ECEC in Canada 2008. http://childcarecanada.org/publications/ecec-in-canada	

Effective 2011, the Early Childhood Enhancement Grant supports licensed full- and part-day child care facilities to enhance the salaries of child care educators and support recruitment and retention. Eighty percent of the grant funding is to be used to support the salary and benefits of early childhood educators who provide direct care for children (based on education and training levels). The remaining 20% can be used for operating expenses (15%) and professional development (5%).

ACCESS

Nova Scotia: Child population 0-5 years 2010¹	
Child population 0-5 years	53,216
Total population	942,506
Children 0-5 years as percentage of total population	5.7%
1. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Nova Scotia: Kindergarten 2010	
Children attending 5 year old Primary ¹	8,412
Child population 5-years-old ²	8,650
% of 5-year-old population attending Primary	97%
1. http://stats-summary.ednet.ns.ca/	
2. Statistics Canada. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories, annual 2010. CANSIM Table 051-0001.	

Nova Scotia: Early childhood education 2 – to 4-year-old enrollment 2008-2009¹	
Children whose parents work or study	8,100
Children whose parent not working	1,800
Children attending public school (early learning programs)	200
Total children attending ECE program	10,100
Child population 2-4 years	27,100
% of 2-4 year old population attending an ECE program	37%
1. Data adapted from Statistics Canada. National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth. Cycle 8, 2008-2009. Special tabulation. NLSCY interview asks parents to identify primary child care arrangement apart from public schooling. An estimated 20% of the 2- to 4-year-old children who have a parent who does not work or study is assumed to attend a preschool program.	
2. Estimated 200 children attending school-offered early learning programs	

Nova Scotia: Licensed child care spaces 2010	
Centre-based child care	
• Infant (0 – 17 months)	594
• Toddler (18 – 35 months)	2,989
• Preschool (36 months – 5 years)	8,246
• School age (5-12 years)	3,039
Family child care spaces	427
Total licensed capacity	15,295

Nova Scotia: Mothers in labour force by age of youngest child 2010¹		
Age of youngest child	Number of mothers	% of mothers
Children ages 0 to 2	14,700	75.0
Children ages 3 to 5	9,900	76.0
Total mothers in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	24,500	75.2
Number of mothers <i>not</i> in labour force with youngest child less than 6 years	8,100	24.5
Total mothers with child less than age 6	32,600	100

1. Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2010.

Inclusion

Nova Scotia has a Special Education Policy (2008) that emphasises inclusivity beginning in Primary. *Guidelines for Early Childhood Transition to School for Children with Special Needs* (rev. 2000) emphasizes inclusion.

<http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/studentsvcs/specialed/speceng.pdf>

Supported Child Care Program (SCC) is a grant based program that provides funding to licensed child care facilities to support inclusive child care programming including an additional early childhood educator to support inclusion, purchase of materials and resources; and/or training/professional development for staff.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/provider/SupportedChildCare.html>

Affordability

Median monthly parent fee (infants)

\$624.75 For licensed full day child care facilities that are in receipt of Stabilization Grant funding – March 2010

Median monthly parent fee (preschool)

\$581.49 [For licensed full day child care facilities that are in receipt of Stabilization Grant funding – March 2010]

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Nova Scotia: Curriculum	
<i>Curriculum: Foundation for Grade Primary Program</i> (April 1999); <i>Learning Outcomes Framework</i> (2004).	Kindergarten is offered in English and French first language and French second language
In development	Early Childhood Development Services, Department of Community Services, in association with Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), are engaged in research regarding the background and options needed to develop an early learning framework for the province of Nova Scotia. This research study includes conducting consultations/surveys to assess the interest and level of understanding, as related to the Nova Scotia context; and to provide recommendations based on the findings.

Working environment

Primary Class size: Primary classes are capped at 25 students. Combined classrooms which include Primary students are capped at 20.

Child care: In regulated child care, there can be no more than 25 children in a room or “specified play area” at one time.

Nova Scotia: Group size and staff child ratio in licensed child care centres		
Age	Staff: child ratio	Maximum group size
Infants (birth – 17 months)	1:4	10
Toddlers (18 – 35 months)	1:6	18
Preschool (36 months – 5 years) full day	1:8	24
Preschool (30 months – 5 years) part day	1:12	24
Mixed age groups (2 or more age ranges)	Staff-child ratio and maximum group size applicable for age range of the youngest child	

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/dayregs.htm>

Educators

Nova Scotia: Educator qualifications	
Primary teachers	Approved Bachelor's degree from a recognized university and one-half of the credit hours completed for the degree must be in a subject(s) taught in the Nova Scotia public schools. An approved program of teacher education must include a minimum of 30 credit hours of professional study including practicum from a recognized university and result in teacher certification in the jurisdiction where it was completed. School districts typically employ early childhood educators for early learning programs.
Early childhood educators	<p>Level 1 Classification: a) complete orientation training approved by the Minister as well as course work and guided workplace experience as specified in standards; or b) one year certificate in early childhood education; or c) equivalency status granted on or before May 1, 2012 and for which the applicant applies no later than April 30, 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 2 Classification: two year diploma in early childhood education. • Level 3 Classification: bachelor's degree in early childhood education or, Classification Level 2 and bachelor's degree in any discipline. • Entry Level Classification: Orientation for Staff Working in Licensed Child Care Facilities. <p>In order to work with children in a licensed facility staff will be required to apply for a classification level. At least 2/3 of the staff working directly with children must hold a Level 1, 2, or 3 Classification. The centre director must hold a Level 2 or 3 Classification. In school-age programs staff must hold the same qualifications as for the Classification Levels. Additionally, staff may be considered trained to work in a school-age program only if they apply for and meet the following qualifications: hold a bachelors degree in early or elementary education or a university credential associated with school-age care, and also complete the Orientation for Staff Working in Licensed Child Care Facilities.</p> <p>http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/provider/DayCareActandRegs.html</p>

Nova Scotia: Teacher and early childhood educator average annual salaries		
Teachers 2008/09	Early childhood educator 2010	ECE % of Teacher
\$66,540 ¹	\$30,180 ²	45%
<p>1. Brockington, R. (2010) <i>Summary Public School Indicators for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, 2002/2003 to 2008/2009</i>, Statistics Canada.</p> <p>2. Calculated at \$ 14.51/hour (Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey. Employed employees and average weekly for NOCS 2006 occupations E217-Early Childhood Educators and Assistants by highest level of educational attainment. Canada and the provinces, 2009/ 2010 two years averages. Special tabulation.) x 40 hours x 52 weeks</p>		

Nova Scotia: Required professional standards for educators		
	Recognition requirement	Professional learning requirement
Kindergarten teachers	Nova Scotia Teachers Certificate Teachers Certification Office, Department of Education http://certification.ednet.ns.ca/	Approved courses and programs for changes in teacher certification classification http://certification.ednet.ns.ca/
Early childhood educators	Child Care Classification Department of Community Services http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/provider/ClassificationforStaff.html	Minimum 30 hours every three years to maintain classification.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Annual Progress Report: *Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Progress Report 2008-2010*
http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/documents/ECD_Report_web.pdf

Population Monitoring: The Early Development Instrument was introduced to all Grade Primary students in 2007. The Department of Education has agreed to collect EDI on a regular basis across the province in 2012.