

**Education Policy (Adopted 27 October 2018)****PREAMBLE:**

In government and in all our public participation, the Green Party of Nova Scotia (“the Green Party”) intends to develop and support policy in Health, Education, Environment, Economics, and all areas that will underpin the Clean, Green and healthy lifestyles that are important to Nova Scotians.

This document represents the Green Party’s policies in the area of Education.

This document was last modified in October 2018, and was last reviewed in October 2018.

**Goals:**

The education system will ensure that Nova Scotians have the knowledge and skills which enable us to cope in the society of the future, and will foster:

- I. a clear sense of individual and community identity
- II. increased self respect and dignity
- III. sound ethical values and purposes
- IV. greater functional, cultural and technological literacy
- V. improved numeracy
- VI. an increased fluency in language and self expression
- VII. an ethos of creativity in personal and public life
- VIII. a stronger environmental awareness, including a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness and interdependence of all life
- IX. a greater acceptance of diversity as a principle to promote vibrant and inclusive public life
- X. more effective conflict resolution and relationship building
- XI. an increased sense of the participatory nature of our civic responsibilities

We will provide public schools with funding and a staffing establishment that:

- XII. delivers a full, diverse and relevant curriculum
- XIII. phases out unnecessary levies and extraneous fees, such as for specific subjects (art, music, physical education, etc.)
- XIV. builds and maintains high standards of information technology
- XV. enhances the role of the school as a public space at the heart of local communities
- XVI. improves the rate of participation of all people in learning throughout their lives.
- XVII. provides a curriculum that acknowledges, and educates people about, diverse cultures, and emphasises learning additional languages
- XVIII. regards social and civic responsibility as a valuable outcome of education
- XIX. provides additional assistance to disadvantaged students to maximise their learning opportunities

Strategies:

To implement our principles and goals the Nova Scotia Green Party will:

1. Provide educational leadership at the political level by advocating for the fundamental importance of education as central to Nova Scotia's future.
2. Improve morale by developing, in consultation with the education community, a means to promote the outstanding programs and achievements in Nova Scotian schools.
3. Promote a higher profile for excellence in teaching.
4. Oppose outsourcing of school support services, including busing and the operation of school cafeterias.
5. Increase opportunities for student participation in the school decision-making processes, including representative and participative structures in all schools.
6. Assess the current maintenance requirements of schools to address any inequitable situations.
7. Phase out all fees and charges to students.
8. Ensure that the policy of inclusion is equitable.
9. Provide professional development for teachers so they are fully trained in the teaching of children with special needs.
10. Provide adequate aide time to support inclusion.
11. Review the current funding model for students with disabilities, which does not take into full account the needs of students across the spectrum of disability.
12. Investigate and fund the shortfall in provision for all students with disability, then index future funding.
13. Provide equitable and comprehensive internet access and information technology facilities in all Nova Scotia schools
14. Enhance the provision of online learning facilities
15. Provide equitable access to computers and related professional development for staff.
16. Include conflict resolution techniques in all levels of education; educate parents, staff, and students in peaceful mediation techniques and anger management.
17. Facilitate greater integration and co-operation between schools and other government departments that provide student support services
18. Increase professional support staff including Guidance Teachers, Social Workers, Speech Pathologists, Librarians and School Psychologists.
19. Provide guidance for the enrollment of mature age and re-entry students
20. Ensure that a global perspective on human rights, social justice, ecological responsibility, non-violent conflict resolution and participatory democracy are included in all education.
21. Develop and implement courses in social or civic responsibility in all elementary and secondary schools
22. Support programs promoting multiculturalism.
23. Develop a Mi'kmaq education program, developed, implemented and monitored in partnership with the Mi'kmaw community to include education on the Treaties and what treaty rights mean.
24. Develop further courses in environmental studies.

25. Support comprehensive and effective literacy programs.
26. Support early intervention programs for mathematics and reading.
27. Introduce comprehensive accelerated learning programs for all students with special capacities, gifts and talents.
28. Provide adequate relief staff by increasing the status of substitute teachers, providing and funding professional development and training for substitute teachers.
29. Apply the same rigorous standards of financial accountability to all educational institutions in receipt of government funds
30. Make all mandated government policies on anti-discrimination a condition of funding to private educational institutions.
31. Immediately remove corporate advertising and end the sale of soft drinks and "junk" food in public schools.
32. Ensure that lunches and food are prepared in the schools, not pre-made and transported to the schools; promote healthy, local and low-waste choices for the programs.