



Discussion Guide

Strategic Planning Consultations 2020-2023

The Newfoundland and Labrador School Board is required to develop and implement a three-year Strategic Plan in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. The current Strategic Plan ends June 30, 2020. The Board is required to have a new plan for 2020-23.

The Board will continue to build on the work accomplished under the current plan, with an overarching focus on Student Engagement and Success, and Health and Well-Being and Operational Effectiveness.

Consultations on building the new Strategic Plan will include many stakeholders: staff, school councils, parents and (where appropriate) students. Consultation will be conducted using ThoughtExchange, an online consultation tool which enables individuals to provide input and rate the thoughts of others.

ThoughtExchange will ask a question that will enable participants to provide as many responses as they like, explain them, and then allow them to rate the thoughts of others. To help guide the online consultation, we have included information about the following potential focus areas:

- Student Engagement and Success
- Health and Well-Being
- Operational Effectiveness

Strategic Issue #1 Student Engagement and Success

Student success has been a recurring theme throughout past consultations and we anticipate it will also be a focus area in the upcoming plan. Student engagement is key to student success and is linked to engagement with teachers and staff, school councils, students and their families to achieve a culture of learning. Some anticipated/potential focus areas are noted below.

Focus areas:

Engagement

Student engagement refers to the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught. Generally speaking, the concept of “student engagement” is predicated on the belief that learning improves when students and teachers are inquisitive, interested, or inspired to learn new things.

Literacy

The District will be continuing its focus on developing literacy skills and providing students with the ability, confidence and willingness to engage with language to communicate effectively. There must also be a focus on ensuring students have the ability to communicate effectively.

Numeracy

Work will continue on improving students’ numeracy skills to help students become mathematically literate. Instruction in mathematical processes supports students in their thinking and ability to make connections, reason and communicate mathematically. Enhanced numeracy skills create student confidence and appreciation of mathematics as they continue their education.

Professional Learning

The District will continue working with teachers and staff to create school environments which promote responsive teaching and learning practices and collaboration with colleagues to effect the best possible learning outcomes for all.

- **Other?**

Strategic Issue #2 Health and Well-being

Health and Well-being is important for social and emotional learning. The District plans to continue its focus on health and well-being, and support a culture of equity across all levels of the system. Potential focus areas are noted below.

Inclusion

The District supports the right of all students to attend school with their peers, and to receive appropriate and quality programming.

Diversity

The range of human differences including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs.

Equity

Providing access and opportunity for all students through identification and removal of barriers to learning. Barriers can be:

- Physical: buildings and spaces that prevent access to work, school or community;
- Communication: that prevent access to information;
- Attitudinal: when people think and make decisions based on incorrect information (bias, stereotypes);
- Systemic: policies, practices, or procedures that discriminate against certain groups of people.

Social-Emotional Learning

Social-emotional Learning is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice is an alternative to punitive responses to wrongdoing. Inspired by indigenous traditions, it brings together persons harmed with persons responsible for harm in a safe and respectful space, promoting dialogue, accountability, and a stronger sense of community.

Online Safety

The District will continue work to ensure students are aware of their internet privacy and how their behaviours can support a healthy use of the internet. Students explore how the internet offers ways to collaborate with others while staying safe through employing strategies such as distinguishing between inappropriate contact and positive connections.

Healthy Eating

The District will continue to work with various partners to promote healthy eating in schools.

Physical Activity

The District is committed to encouraging increased physical activity, any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure.

Mental Health

The District will continue to support environments that promote and support positive mental health. Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

Strategic Issue #3 Operational Effectiveness

Operational Effectiveness is a continued focus for District Operations. Efficiency in operations supports the delivery of educational services for student achievement in welcoming and safe environments. Potential focus areas are noted:

Financial Management

The District will continue to enhance systems, procedures and practices to guide schools and regional offices in financial management, payroll, inventory and purchasing controls.

Student Transportation

The District will build on work to date on student transportation procedures and stakeholder engagement to reduce risk and enhance student safety.

Human Resources

The District will continue to refine recruitment and hiring practices to support current and future staff.

The Board is inviting feedback from your school community, and a ThoughtExchange question has been created for consideration and input. All voices matter, so your participation is important. **Please note the Board can only consider suggestions/comments on K-12 education matters which fall under its authority and control.**

Please follow the link below to enter your thoughts on the following question. The exchange will close as of 4:00 p.m. (NT), Friday, May 15, 2020

What more can we do as a Board that will have the greatest impact on student success?

Focus areas may include, for example: literacy, numeracy, experiential 'hands on' learning, student engagement, relationship building, social-emotional learning, developing community partnerships, mental health, physical activity, inclusion, recognizing and celebrating diversity, professional learning, student leadership, or any other topic of your choice that falls within the mandate and control of the Board of Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District.

Thought Exchange link:

<https://www.thoughtexchange.com/join/> and enter Code 209-614-713

Other links - the NLESD Strategic Plan (2017-20)

<https://www.nlesd.ca/about/strategicplans/doc/strategicplan2017-20.pdf>, and NLESD 2018-19

Annual Report <https://www.nlesd.ca/about/annualreports/doc/NLESDAnnualReport2019.pdf>

Premier's Task Force report: https://www.gov.nl.ca/eecd/files/task_force_report.pdf

and Education Action Plan <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eecd/files/eap-report.pdf>,