

Nova Scotia 2014

1. GOVERNANCE

Table 1.1 Nova Scotia Governance Structure for Early Childhood Education

Lead Ministry/Department	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Related Ministry/Department	Department of Health and Wellness Department of Community Services
Policy Framework	In development
Legislation	<i>Day Care Act</i> , Chapter 120, S.1, of the Revised Statutes, 1989 ¹ <i>Day Care Regulations</i> made under Section 15 of the <i>Day Care Act</i> 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. ²
Related Legislation	<i>Education Act and Regulation</i> (1995–96, amended 1998, 2000, 2002) – consolidated 2013 ³ <i>Pre-Primary Education Act</i> 2005 ⁴ <i>Special Education Act</i> ⁵ <i>Children and Family Services Act</i> (1990 amended 1994–95, c. 7, ss. 11-15, 150; 1996, c. 10; 1996, c. 3, ss. 37, 38; 2001, c. 3, s. 4; 2002, c. 5, ss. 2, 3; 2005, c. 15; 2008, c. 12 ⁶ <i>Children and Family Services Regulations</i> Section 99 of the <i>Children and Family Services Act</i> S.N.S. 1990, c. 5 O.I.C. 91-954 (August 15, 1991, effective September 3, 1991), N.S. Reg. 183/91 as amended to O.I.C. 2013-333 (September 10, 2013), N.S. Reg. 306/2013 ⁷
Common ECE Supervisory Unit	The Early Years Branch
Local Authority	Primary programs delivered in 9 school boards (7 English, 1 French, 1 Aboriginal) ⁸ Child care is administered through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ⁹
Public Advisory	Advisory Council on the Early Years Provincial Early Years Partnership

New Developments

Province-wide consultations¹⁰ in 2012 led to the formation of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to better coordinate and improve the province's support for young children and their families. The Early Years Branch was created to better integrate services. This change brings public education, child care, early intervention and early childhood education training under one ministry.

Department Organization

The Early Years Branch in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development oversees early childhood development services and early years centres. It is responsible for the development of early years legislation, regulations and standards for licensed child care facilities and family home daycare programs; administration of grant funding; and administration of the child care subsidy program, studies and online learning.

The Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) division is responsible for the policy and program development for licensed child care facilities/agencies. Early Childhood Development Consultants (ECDCs) provide program and policy support to licensed child care facilities and family home daycare agencies and consult with applicants seeking to operate licensed child care facilities.

Early Childhood Development Services is responsible for licensing child care facilities and family home daycare agencies and for providing consultation and support to enhance program quality.

The Department of Community Service (DCS) Licensing Services is responsible for the inspections and compliance enforcement of child care facilities and family day care agencies.

Primary school programming falls under the Education Programs Services.

Policy Framework

A policy framework for the early years is in development.

Service Design

- **Primary:** Kindergarten is called Primary in Nova Scotia. It is a full-time, school year program. Children are eligible if they are 5 years old by December 31. Parents of children born before December 31 have the option of not enrolling their child until the following year.

- **4-year-old program:** Some schools offer programs for 4-year-olds: the Halifax Regional School Board offers Early Learning Opportunities (ELO) in five schools; the Strait Regional School Board offers the School Transition Entry Program (STEP) in one school; the African Canadian Services Division, Department of Education and early childhood development offers 4+ in two school sites in the province; and the Conseil scolaire acadien offers Grandir en français in their elementary schools throughout the province. The program is also offered in Early Years Centres (see below).
- **Regulated child care:** Child care in centres includes the following options: full-time, part-time (less than 4 hours per day/30 hours per week) and school-age care. Child care in homes is overseen by licensed family home daycare agencies that recruit, train and support home child care providers. Licensed child care programs are required to have Parent Committees that meet at least once a year to discuss the operation of the program.
- **SchoolsPlus:** This program operates in all eight school boards and offers integrated family resource and child care programming, as well as youth health centres.
- **Early Years Centres:**¹¹ The new model for Early Years Centres started in four schools (expanding to eight in 2015). Each Early Years Centre is tailored to meet the needs of its community by partnering with education, health and child care within the community to offer a universal program for 4-year-olds, family supports and regulated child care as well as early intervention, and before- and after-school programs. The project is a partnership with the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation, which is providing start-up and evaluation support.
- **Family Resource Programs:** Nineteen centres offer parent education, family support and early literacy programs.¹²

Community Involvement/Oversight

All schools have school advisory committees that include community members. The Provincial Early Years Partnerships and the Advisory Committee provide opportunities for partners and community members to inform early years works and system development.

Local Service Delivery

Primary programs and Early Years Centres are overseen by nine school boards.

Early Childhood Development Services (ECDS) regulates and funds child care.

2. FUNDING

Table 2.1 Nova Scotia: Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2014–15)

Child care fee subsidies	\$18,196,700
Operating funds (includes wage, training, quality and special needs grants)	\$34,728,300
Total regulated child care	\$52,925,000

Overall Funding

Table 2.2 Nova Scotia: Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care¹³

Primary/4 year old program (kindergarten)	*\$100,812,000
Licensed child care	\$52,925,000
Total ECE spending	\$153,737,000
Total budget estimate 2014–2015	\$9,935,694,000
ECE as a percentage of provincial budget	1.5%

*490 children enrolled in the 4-year-old program, 8,644 primary enrolment (2012), \$11,037 per student.¹⁴

3. ACCESS

Table 3.1 Nova Scotia: Child Population 0–5 years (2013)¹⁵

Child population 0–5 years	52,599
0–1 years	17,426
2–4 years	26,199
5 years	8,974
Total population of Nova Scotia	940,789
Children 0–5 years as percentage of total population	5.6%

Statistics Canada. Table 051-0001. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2013, Canada, provinces and territories (accessed: August 20, 2014).

Table 3.2 Nova Scotia: Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2013)

	Number mothers in workforce (000s) by age of youngest child	LF participation rate of mothers in workforce by age of youngest child
0–1 years	10.6	74.1%
2–4 years	13.6	79.7%
5 years	3.8	82.4%
Total mothers in workforce with child 0–5 years	26.0	
Average workforce participation of mothers with youngest child 0–5 years		78.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation S0814_04_Tab1.ivt.

Table 3.3 Nova Scotia: ECE School Programs

Children attending 5-year-old kindergarten	8,832
Child population	8,974
% of children attending kindergarten	98.4%

Table 3.4 Nova Scotia: Licensed Child Care Programs

Spaces by age group in centre-based programs	
Infants (0–17 months)	767
Toddler (18–35 months)	3,619
Preschool-aged (36 months–5 years)	8,312
School-aged (5–12 years)	3,647
Total spaces centre-based programs	16,345
Family child care/home and group	1,164
Total capacity regulated child care	17,509
Facilities by type	
Centre-based programs	387
Family child care providers	194
Facilities by auspice	165 non-profit and 222 commercial

Table 3.5 Nova Scotia: Percentage of Children Attending ECE Programs by Age Group

Child ages	Number of children ^a	Child care/preschool	Kindergarten enrolment ^b	Other ECE programs ^c	% children with access to ECE programming
0–1 years	17,426	1,961			11%
2–4 years	26,199	9,500		790	39%
5 years	8,974		8,832		98.4%

^aStatistics Canada, Table 051-0001, Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories (accessed: August 20, 2014); ^bProvince of Nova Scotia, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Statistics and Data Management Office; ^cIncludes 4 year old programs, Grandir en français and Early Years Centres.

Affordability

Table 3.6 Nova Scotia: Child Care Subsidy — Maximum Allowable Income Levels¹⁶

# Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children
Net Income	\$61,080	\$61,668	\$75,468	\$92,268	\$107,268

Inclusion

Special Education Policy (2008) emphasizes inclusivity beginning in Primary.¹⁷ *Transition Planning for Students with Special Needs: The Early Years Through to Adult Life* (rev. 2005) supports stakeholders as students enter, move through and leave the school system.¹⁸

Supported Child Care Program (SCC) is a grant-based program that provides funding to licensed child care facilities to support inclusive programming, including additional staffing, materials and resources, and/or training/professional development for staff.¹⁹

4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Table 4.1 Nova Scotia: Curriculum Frameworks

Program	Framework Documents
Primary (kindergarten)	Curriculum: <i>Foundation for Grade Primary Program</i> (April 1999); <i>Learning Outcomes</i>
4-year-old program	N/A
Early years programs	In discussion

Work Environment

Primary Class size: Budget 2014 provides funding to lower primary class sizes to 20 students.²⁰

Child care: No more than 25 children are allowed in a room or “specified play area” at one time.

Table 4.2 Nova Scotia: Group Size and Staff Child Ratio in Licensed Child Care Centres

Age of Child	Staff: Child Ratio	Class Size
Full-Day Program		
Infants (birth–17 months)	1:4	10
Toddlers (18–35 months)	1:6	18
Preschool (36 months–5 years)	1:8	24
Part-Day Program		
Toddler > 30 months	1:12	24
Preschool	1:12	24
Mixed age groups (two or more age ranges)	Staff-child ratio and maximum group size applicable for age range of the youngest child	
Family Home Day Care Program		
Any age*	1:6	6
Infants	1:3	3
School age	1:8	8

* Subject to the requirements that a group of children in a family home daycare program include no more than two infants and three toddlers.

Educators

Table 4.3 Nova Scotia: Educator Qualifications

Kindergarten Teachers ²¹	Early Childhood Educators ²²
Four levels of classifications are available, with a minimum of three years of approved undergraduate studies plus a minimum of two years of an approved program of professional studies and receipt of an approved bachelor’s degree from a recognized university.	<p><i>Level 3 Classification:</i> Completion of a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education or completion of Level 2 requirements and a bachelor’s degree.</p> <p><i>Level 2 Classification:</i> Completion of an approved two-year post-secondary program in early childhood education.</p> <p><i>Level 1 Classification:</i> Certificate of post-secondary course work in early childhood education.</p> <p><i>School Age Approval:</i> Orientation course for child care staff plus a teaching degree or college diploma.</p> <p><i>Entry level:</i> 13-week course combining classroom and practicum administered by Nova Scotia Community College.</p>

Professional Standards

Table 4.4 Nova Scotia: Professional Recognition and Development

	Qualified Teachers ²³	Qualified ECEs ²⁴
Professional Requirement	Nova Scotia Teachers Certificate Teachers Certification Office, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	Child Care Classification administered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Professional Development Required	100 hours every 5 years ²⁵	Minimum 30 hours every three years to maintain classification

Table 4.5 Nova Scotia: Density of Qualified Staff in Child Care Centres

2/3 of staff working directly with children in a licensed child care facility must have a Level 1, 2 or 3 classification.

Table 4.6 Nova Scotia: Teacher and ECE Average Annual Salaries

Teachers ^a	Early Childhood Educators ^b	ECE salary as % of teachers salary
\$71,654	\$30,389	42%

^awww.bctf.ca/uploadedfiles/public/bargainingcontracts/teachersalaryrankings2013-14brief.pdf; ^bStatistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, custom tabulation S0814_04_Tab2.ivt

5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress Report: *Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Progress Report 2010–2012*²⁶. This report fulfills the reporting requirements of the 2000 First Minister's Communique on Early Childhood Development (ECDI) and the 2003 Multilateral Framework on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC).

2014–15 Statement of Mandate for the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development: The Statement of Mandate outlines the department's strategies for the coming year. Priorities include the development of an Early Years Framework and a review of early intervention programs that provide family-centred services to children with special needs. As well, the department will work with partners to develop a comprehensive wellness visit for children 18 months old.²⁷

Program standards: The Early Years Branch operates a Directory of Licensed Child Care Facilities and their compliance records.²⁸

Population Monitoring: The Early Development Instrument (EDI) was first administered to Primary grade children in the 2012–13 school year; it will be administered again in 2014–15.

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