

Title	Effective Date	Revision Date	No. Of Pages
<p align="center"><b>No. 908</b> <b>GENERALIZED SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES (In the Public School System)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>November 24, 1998</b></p>		<p align="center">1 of 5</p>

It shall be the policy of the Tri-County Regional School Board to comply with the Inter-Departmental Protocols for the provision of generalized school health services in the public school system, as defined by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services and the Nova Scotia Department of Health, with a paper dated June 5, 1998.

Procedure under Policy 908
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The Tri-County Regional School Board will adhere to the Inter-Departmental Protocols for the provision of generalized school health services in the public school system, as defined by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services and the Nova Scotia Department of Health, with a paper dated June 5, 1998.

### **PROTOCOL AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF**  
Education, Community Services, and Health

**REGARDING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:**

**I. Background**

Public school education in Nova Scotia has two major goals: to help all students develop to their full potential cognitively, effectively, physically and socially: to help all students acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for them to continue as thinking, learning, physically active, valued members of society. It is a duty of teachers in the public school system to attend to the health, comfort and safety of the students (Section 26(1)(n), The Education Act, January 1996). To facilitate the healthy development of children in schools, the services of public health nurses, health educators, dental hygienists, and nutritionists are required.

“The importance of the early and ongoing promotion of healthy lifestyles, through education and the development of solid parenting skills, along with the development of

health promoting environment, cannot be understated.” “Public Health Services recognized and actively utilizes the development of community social supports as a key approach to strengthening community capacity to take action for health.” (NS Health Standards, April 1997)

## II. **Target Population**

All Children of school age in all public schools

## III. **The Role of the NS Department of Education**

The NS Department of Education and Culture is responsible for:

- Setting policy and establishing direction and guidelines;
- Establishing protocols and agreements;
- Drafting and implementing legislation;
- Developing curriculum to address well being and healthy lifestyles; and
- Actively participating in interdepartmental and interagency collaborative efforts in the design and implementation of policy and appropriate programming and services for students, including students with special needs.

## IV. **The Role of the NS Department of Health**

The NS Department of Health is responsible for:

- Setting policy and establishing direction and guidelines;
- Establishing protocols and agreements;
- Drafting and implementing legislation;
- Actively participating with the NS Department of Education in developing curriculum to address well being and healthy lifestyles;
- Actively participating in interdepartmental and interagency collaborative efforts in the design and implementation of policy and appropriate programming and services for students, including students with special needs;
- Providing consultation services by the Medical Officer of Health in situations of environmental and health risk, i.e. air quality, communicable disease control. (see Health Act, Sections 69 to 73.)

## V. **The role of the NS Department of Community Services**

The NS Department of Community Services is responsible for:

- Setting policy and establishing direction and guidelines;
- Establishing protocols and agreements;
- Drafting and implementing legislation; and
- Agreeing to be involved with partners in Education and Health in an effort to support children in their communities.

## VI. **Role of the Regional Health Board**

Each region shall:

- Ensure that appropriate services are provided to children in school in accordance with the Department of Health standards; and
- Establish regional policies and protocols and undertake regional program planning and implementation.

## VII. **Role of the Regional School Board**

The Regional School Board shall:

- Ensure that the Superintendent of the school region provides the Director, Public Health Services or designate, with the fall projected enrolments for all schools in the regional by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year;
- Provide safe, quality learning environments (Education Act, 64(1)(f)).
- Provide and maintain appropriate private space, and make available facilities required for Public Health Services staff to carry out their duties, such as vision screening and immunization in each school;
- Ensure that the Medical Officer of Health, or designate, has access to the health section of the Student's Cumulative Student Record in the even of a communicable disease outbreak;
- Ensure that provincial curricula promoting healthy lifestyles and wellbeing is implemented;
- Ensure that the Medical Officer of Health is notified in situations where there is concern about possible outbreaks of communicable disease, air quality or other potential environmental risk situations (Health Act, Sections 69 to 73); and
- Ensure that all school personnel are aware of the obligation to report situations where children are in need of protective services to the appropriate Family and Children's Service Agency in their area.

## VIII. **The Role of District Offices (NS Department of Community Services) and Children's Aid Societies**

Each District Office and Children's Aid Society shall:

- Notify appropriate school personnel of children attending school who are in the care of a child welfare agency and have specialized health care needs;
- Agree to be available for the purposes of sharing information and participating in individual planning with the family, school personnel and health care personnel for children/youth who are in the care of a child welfare agency or are considered at risk of abuse and neglect; and
- Agree to be involved with partners in Education, and Health, in an effort to support children in their communities.

**IX. The Role of the Public Health Services (Public Health Program) Staff**

Public Health personnel shall:

- Consult with the principal of each school to determine mutually acceptable times to carry out Health Services activities in the schools;
- Advise school staff, Parent/Teacher and/or Home and School Associations and School Advisory Councils of services provided in schools;
- Communicate as needed, to the appropriate school personnel, and with students'/parents' consent, information concerning consultations carried out;
- Communicate with parents as needed, with the student's consent when appropriate, information concerning consultations and referrals carried out with students;
- Provide communicable disease control, surveillance and education in accordance with NS Department of Health standards.

**IX. The Role of the Public Health Services (Public Health Program) Staff  
(continued)**

- Provide immunization to:
  - 15-year olds for diphtheria, tetanus and polio, in accordance with provincial standards; and
  - Grade four students for Hepatitis B, in accordance with provincial standards;
- Screen the vision of all Primary students and referred students in accordance with Department of Health standards;
- Provide consultative services to teachers and their classes regarding healthy sexuality, dental health, tobacco reduction, healthy eating, healthy lifestyle, and personal hygiene, etc. and do selected classroom teaching;
- Provide short term individual health consultations/counseling for referred students, families and teachers in accordance with Department of Health standards;
- Provide selected services which may include dental hygiene screening/examination and fluoride rinse programs, in accordance with Department of Health standards;
- Assist in planning and developing healthy school policies, and
- With the consent of the parent or guardian, provide information to school personnel regarding the nature of health needs which may affect learning and/or behavior.

**X. The Role of Principals and Teachers**

- The principal of each school shall confirm with the public health nurse assigned to the school, the date(s) of primary registration(s). A list of names, date of birth, address and health care number (when available of Primary, Grade Four and fifteen-year old students will be given to the Public Health Services by September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Information on Grade Three students will be forwarded by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year;

- The principal of each school shall provide to the public health nurse assigned to the school a list of all new students;
- Principals shall provide Public Health Services with the school calendar and notice of changes to the activities/schedule (i.e. in-service dates, school trips, etc.);

#### **X. The Role of Principals and Teachers (Continued)**

- Each teacher in the school shall be informed of any health personnel school schedules and shall be available to consult with health personnel at a mutually agreeable time;
- Teachers shall report to the principal the existence of communicable disease in the school as well as possible environmental risks. (The Education Act 16(1)(o)); and
- Principals and teachers shall report any suspicions that a child is in need of protective services to the appropriate Family and Children's Services Agency in their area and shall cooperate in the investigation of such reports as appropriate.

#### **XI. Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians**

##### **it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to:**

- Communicate regularly with school staff;
- Advise the school personnel of their children's health conditions which may affect their ability to learn and/or behavior, and their personal safety;
- Ensure the basic needs of their children are met; and
- Support their children's teachers in their efforts to provide an education for their children.

##### **References:**

Accountability in Nova Scotia's Health System, NS Department of Health, March 1997  
 Nova Scotia Health Standards, Edition#1; NS Department of Health, April 1997  
 Health Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c.195, as am. S.N.S. 1992,c.19, as am. 1994-94, c.7.  
 The Education Act, Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1995-96, NS department of Education and Culture, January 1996.

##### **Related Documents**

Inter-Ministerial Protocols for the Provision of Support Services to Schools to Students with Special Health Care Needs.  
 Special Education Policy Manual, NS Department of Education and Culture, 1996.

*Original signed by Honourable Robert S. Harrison, Minister of Education*  
 1998

*Dated June 17,*

*Original signed by Honourable Jim Smith, Minister of Health*  
 1998

*Dated July 8,*

*Original signed by Honourable Francene Cosman, Minister of Community Services*  
 1998

*Dated July 10,*