



Pictured above: a Remembrance Day ceremony at Meadowfields Community School.

NOVEMBER · KEPTEKEWIKU'S · NOVEMBRE · 2023



REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



Wind Phone Project

Mr. Goulden, Tech Ed Teacher at Shelburne Regional High School, was approached by a volunteer with the Shelburne County Mental Health and Wellness Association to see if he and his students could create a cupboard style box to house Wind Phones.

What are Wind Phones?

Wind Phones are phones that are set up somewhere in a natural environment, but they are not connected. Instead, they are used to encourage people who are grieving to speak to a loved one.

The wind phone booths that were constructed by SRHS students were placed along walking trails in Shelburne and Barrington, as part of the Mental Health Walk initiative.

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Ideas for Education

Over the last year, the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development gathered *Ideas for Education* directly from teachers.

From this feedback, a number of new initiatives were created. Here's an overview of the teacher-inspired pilot projects that have been approved in TCRCE. These projects are now being developed with implementation planned for this school year.

Elementary Math Specialist Pilot

With a focus on students in the elementary levels, this pilot will explore contracting retired teachers who were formerly Math Mentors to fine tune math instruction. These math specialists will on focus providing support to teachers at schools where the numeracy data identifies a need.

Support for New Teachers

New teachers will be encouraged and empowered through a mentorship with a retired teacher who will share their knowledge and expertise.

Dedicated Teacher to Provide Extra Supports

This pilot will look at hiring a former teacher/administrator who is highly effective in culturally responsive pedagogy and equity-based work. They will meet with administrators of identified schools to determine which students would benefit most from this support.

Hire Full-Time Term Substitute Teachers

A full-time term substitute teacher will be hired in each county to provide support in schools where substitutes are needed.

Teacher Appreciation

Working with NSTU, TCRCE will hold a Teacher Appreciation event in each of our three counties.

These pilots projects may be adjusted as we move throughout implementation.

To learn more about Ideas for Education [click here](#).



System Improvement Plan

Student well-being and success is at the center of all our work here at Tri-County Regional Centre for Education.

To ensure all members of the TCRCE team are working toward common goals, we have updated our System Improvement Plan and are now ready to release the new plan. We invite you review it below.

The plan is focused on three key areas: well-being, literacy, and mathematics. You will notice the addition of a strong and cohesive strategy that will guide us in reaching our goals. We have also included a theory of action, which is focused on short-cycle planning.

Short-Cycle Data Analysis

Short-cycle planning and data analysis is explained in the System Improvement Plan image below, in the wheel diagram. Short-cycle planning focuses on a flexible approach to learning that allows adjustments to teaching strategies to take place based on ongoing assessment of student progress.

Short cycles occur multiple times throughout a school year and each cycle can last up to 90 days.

Through short-cycle planning and data analysis, educators and support staff are able to identify strengths along with areas for growth at the student, school, and regional levels.

When all educators work collaboratively and intentionally through short-cycle planning, then student well-being and achievement will improve.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT In TCRCE, our mission is to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment where every student can reach their full potential and succeed academically, socially and emotionally.

STRATEGY & GOALS

Strategy

Through building collective efficacy across the region, all educators will improve their knowledge and practice. Through this work, our region will become a responsive and innovative region.

Goals

Well-Being
All students in TCRCE will experience a sense of belonging and identity in school.

Literacy
All students in TCRCE will experience success in both reading and writing.

Numeracy
All students in TCRCE will experience success in Mathematics.

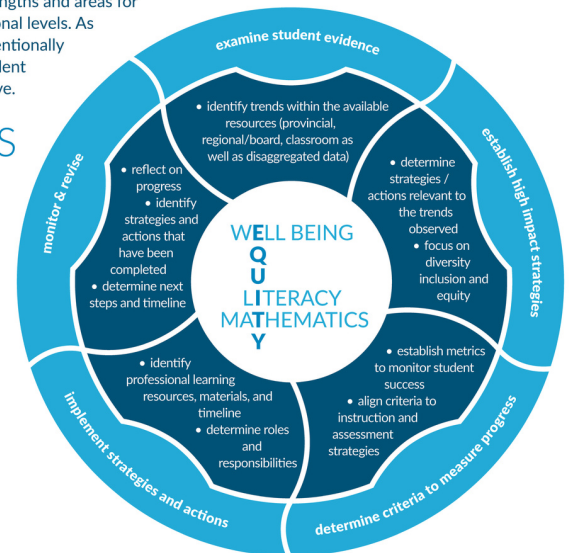


THEORY OF ACTION Through short-cycle planning and data analysis, we will be able to identify strengths and areas for growth at the student, school and regional levels. As educators work collaboratively and intentionally through short-cycle planning, then student well-being and achievement will improve.

KEY QUESTIONS

To ensure all students reach their full potential, we continually gather evidence and ask:

1. How are our students doing?
2. How do we know?
3. What are the necessary next steps to ensure success for all students?



EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

- P-6 Reading Level Data Regional Short-Cycle Data Analysis
- 7-12 Success Data (Regional Short-Cycle Data Analysis)
- Provincial Assessments
- Student Success Survey
- Report Cards
- Student Focus Groups
- Student Advisory Councils
- Early Development Instrument
- School Attendance Data
- Health Promoting Schools Data

KEY RESOURCES

- NS Inclusive Education Policy
- NS Teaching Standards
- NS Leadership Standards
- NS Student Assessment Policy
- NS Student Attendance Policy
- Teacher Growth & Evaluation Tool
- School Advisory Councils
- Treaty Education
- African NS Education Framework
- Physical Activity Framework
- Region-School Data Partnerships
- NS Curriculum Guides





Tri-County
Regional Centre for Education



How to Contact TCRCE

School-Related Inquiries/Concerns?



1. The first point of contact should always be the child's teacher.
2. If the inquiry/concern is unresolved, families should always contact the school administration.
3. If the inquiry/concern is still unresolved, families are asked to contact TCRCE and will then be put in touch with the appropriate person.

 902-749-5818
 info@tcrce.ca



General Inquiries

 902-749-5696
 contact@tcrce.ca



Transportation

 902-749-5663
 bussing@tcrce.ca

Pre-Primary Program

 902-749-5678
 preprimary@tcrce.ca

School Closure/Weather

 1-888-833-5287
 weather@tcrce.ca

Joint Accessibility Plan

Nova Scotia's seven regional centres for education and Conseil scolaire provincial have been developing a multi-year Joint Accessibility Plan to ensure accessibility in public education. This is part of a bigger provincial goal for an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Last February, families and staff throughout the province were invited to review a draft plan and provide feedback. We thank everyone who provided their thoughts and ideas. Now, we are pleased to share the finalized Joint Accessibility Plan. [Click here](#) to see the plan.

As a next step, TCRCE is developing an implementation plan. You can expect additional updates as we continue the important work of creating accessible public education in Nova Scotia.



Joint Accessibility Plan

Nova Scotia's Regional Centres for Education & Conseil scolaire acadien provincial

Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education
Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education
Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education
Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Halifax Regional Centre for Education
South Shore Regional Centre for Education
Strait Regional Centre for Education
Tri-County Regional Centre for Education

 Halifax Regional Centre for Education
 Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education
 Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education
 Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education
 Strait Regional Centre for Education
 South Shore Regional Centre for Education
 CSAP Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
 Tri-County Regional Centre for Education

Spotlight on Schools



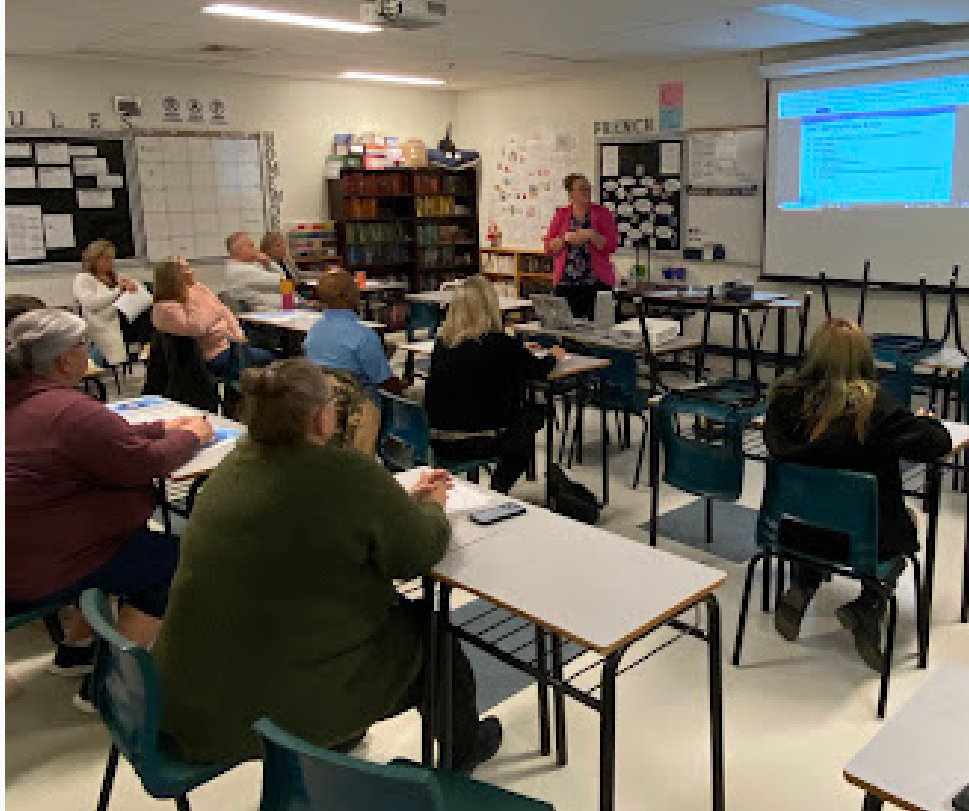
On a recent Professional Development day, Teacher Assistants participated in a wellness workshop. Yarmouth county TAs are pictured above.

Students and staff at Weymouth Consolidated School enjoyed a wonderful performance from The Maritime Centre for African Dance, highlighting the African culture of dance and drumming (pictured left).



Carleton Consolidated Elementary School celebrated Mi'kmaw History Month with Mi'kmaq Cultural day. A highlight was the visit from Plymouth School students who shared the Honour Song along with Student Support Workers, Kaylee and Shantel who lead a smudging ceremony (pictured above).

The Maple Grove Education Centre STOMP (Students Together Moving to Prevent Tobacco Use) group recently presented to the grade 6 classes about the dangers of vaping and smoking (pictured left).



A group of School Advisory Council members meet for a Regional SAC Professional Development session.

Regional Student Advisory Council Meetings

School advisory councils (SACs) are one way to bring together school stakeholders and individuals from local communities who share an interest in promoting student success in their school. SACs are volunteer organizations and are an integral part of Nova Scotia's public schools.

SACs often work in collaboration with principals and participate in efforts to improve student achievement and well-being by regularly receiving information on the school improvement plan and monitoring progress. SACs determine spending priorities for the provincial funds allocated to support their mandate, including student achievement, according to the terms of their SAC Agreement.

One of the responsibilities of an SAC member is to participate in provincial and regional meetings, consultations, and professional development opportunities offered for SACs by the Minister of Education, RCEs, or other education entities. Each year, SAC members are invited to regional SAC sessions to discuss a variety of timely topics. One meeting is held in each county and all SAC members from that county are invited to the collaborative session.

This year, the key themes discussed at the regional SAC meetings were:

- SAC Agreements and Bylaws
- Communication and Membership
- Best Practices and Roles/Responsibilities
- Student Success Planning Framework
- Short-Cycle Data Analysis
- Enhancing Local Voice
- Regional Feedback and Single Points of Entry for Families
- Relationship-Building & Trust

If you are interested in joining an SAC, please reach out to your local school directly.

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Storm Day Process

TCRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

We encourage you to check multiple sources for school closure info. Here are the ways we share the updates:

- Check our website www.tcrce.ca
- Local media (radio and TV stations)
- Our [Facebook](#) & [X\(Twitter\)](#)
- Email & text alerts: messages are sent via email and text through our service provider to contact information we have on file. Opt-ins are required to receive text messages. **If you haven't already done so and would like to sign up to receive texts from TCRCE, text "Y" (from a number on file with a school) to 978338.** Please note, delivery times for text and email can vary based on service providers. It is not recommended to rely solely on receiving this notification. If you need to update your contact information, please contact your school directly.

