



# REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



On Friday, Sept. 26, members of our school communities wore orange in recognition of Orange Shirt Day—a time to honour the children who never returned home, the Survivors of Residential Schools, and their families and communities. This moment of reflection leads into the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, which honours those impacted by residential schools and calls on all of us to reflect, learn, and commit to meaningful change. Pictured above are students from Weymouth Consolidated School.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

School Lunch  
Program Update  
**PAGE 2**

Marking Orange  
Shirt Day  
**PAGE 3**

Welcome Back to School  
**PAGE 4**

Spotlight on Schools  
**PAGE 5**

Code of Conduct Policy  
**PAGE 6**  
System  
Improvement Plan  
**PAGE 7**

Concern Protocol  
**PAGE 8**

[www.tcrce.ca](http://www.tcrce.ca)

# School Lunch Program Update: Cafeterias Serve Up Joy, Connection, and Culinary Discovery

The smiles, laughter, and chatter in our school cafeterias from Lockeport to Freeport are more livelier than ever as students enjoy delicious, nutritious, and affordable meals. Many are trying foods that have never been offered in their schools before, and the response has been terrific. Students and staff alike are excited by the variety, and mealtimes have become a positive part of the school day.

Our food service staff have truly become part of the school community. They know the students by name, greet them with warm smiles, and encourage them to give new foods a try. They also join in school life, whether that is dressing up for theme days, helping with celebrations, or simply being a friendly, familiar face. Their impact goes far beyond the food they serve. They help create welcoming spaces where students feel supported and cared for.

We are so thankful for everything they do each day. Their kindness, energy, and dedication make our schools feel welcoming and supportive, and they have truly made a positive difference in the lives of students and our schools.

*Samples of meals served in TCRCE:*



*A food service worker participates in a fun school event:*



## Nova Scotia Before and After (NS BAP) Update

The Province of Nova Scotia has expanded capacity in several Before and After Program locations, with many programs increasing from 24 to 30 spaces to better meet the needs of families.

Within TCRCE, NS BAP programs are currently offered in 9 schools. Families can explore participating schools and operators in their area by visiting: [www.ednet.ns.ca/bap](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/bap).



Program quality is supported through two provincial validation visits each year—one in the fall and one in the spring—conducted by the NS BAP Manager. These visits not only ensure providers are meeting provincial standards, but also give staff and operators the opportunity to receive suggestions, new activity ideas, and program supports to enhance the experience for children.

As part of ongoing planning, families at some schools have already completed a provincial needs assessment. Schools not included in the first round will participate in a family needs assessment this winter.

These updates highlight the province's commitment to strengthening after school options and ensuring families have access to quality, reliable care.



# Orange Shirt Day Observances



October is Mi'kmaw History Month—a time to honour the rich culture, language, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In the days leading up to October, our schools marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30) through assemblies, ceremonies, classroom lessons, and community outings. These activities reflect our ongoing commitment to Indigenous education. Across TCRCE, you'll see learning opportunities that celebrate Mi'kmaw heritage—not just in October, but throughout the year. We recognize that reconciliation and Mi'kmaw learning are not limited to a single month. They are woven meaningfully into our classrooms and communities all year long.

*Pictured top left: feather artwork from Lockeport Regional High School's bulletin board.*

*Pictured top right: Staff and students at Islands Consolidated School mark Orange Shirt Day.*

*Pictured lower left: Students at Port Maitland Consolidated School participate in a school wide assembly.*





# Welcome Back to School!



Students at Shelburne Regional High School pose with a "First Day of Grade 8" sign.



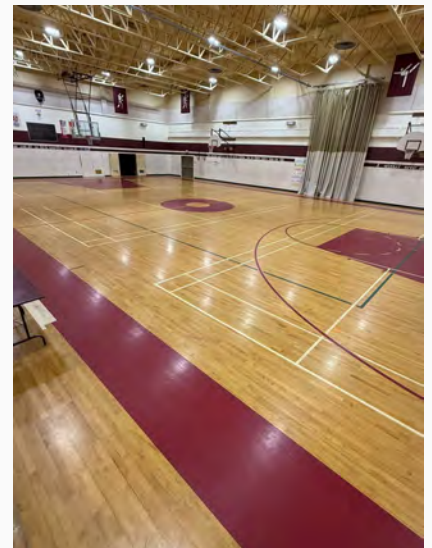
Hillcrest Academy students arrive at school for the first day of the 2025-26 school year.



Drumlin Heights Consolidated School held an ice cream social for their school families. It was a great way to kick off the school year and enjoy a tasty treat!



Over the summer our property services staff were busy preparing schools for the return of students. One of these projects was this repair to the gym floor at Islands Consolidated School. The photo on the left shows the floor after sanding, with several boards removed in preparation for replacement. And the photo of the right was taken just before the sealer was applied.





## Spotlight on Schools



On September 23, the Barrington Municipal High School Options and Opportunities class visited the CAT Ferry and Tri-Star Industries as part of an exploratory field trip.

On the ferry, students got to tour the ship, meet the captains, visit the bridge and engine room and learn about the different jobs in the industry.

While at Tri-Star, students learned how to build an ambulance from the ground up, what trades are involved, how to grow a business and some of the technology that paramedics now have access to.

It was a great day of learning for all!



Lockeport Regional High School's Science 10 class recently explored a fun and safe way to inflate balloons—without using a single breath! Instead of blowing them up manually, students demonstrated a neutralization reaction, showcasing how chemical reactions can produce gases that inflate balloons. Along the way, they also practiced lab safety protocols, reinforcing the importance of safe science practices while learning through hands-on experimentation.



Staff and students from Digby Neck Consolidated School proudly wear pink in support of Pink Shirt Day, standing together to promote kindness, inclusion, and a commitment to ending bullying.



TCRCE staff attended the Harvest Festival on Sept. 20th at the Wasoqopa'q First Nation. Featured in the photo to the left is Michael Clark (Principal - Carleton), Kelsie Clark (VP - MGECC), Natasha Yorke-Phillip (School Psychologist) and David Phillip (Coordinator, African Canadian Education).


# Updated Code of Conduct Policy

This school year, our schools are implementing Nova Scotia's updated Provincial School Code of Conduct as part of the Provincial Safe Schools Strategy. The policy outlines clear expectations for student behaviour and provides consistent, fair guidelines for addressing unacceptable actions.

To ensure a strong and unified rollout, TCRCE school staff participated in professional development sessions prior to the start of the school year. This training was not only about understanding the policy—it was also about equipping staff with the tools needed to apply the policy consistently across all school communities.

This work will continue throughout the fall as we support staff and families in understanding the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Our goal is to ensure that schools remain safe, inclusive, and responsive learning environments for all.

We encourage parents and guardians to learn more about the Code of Conduct online and to review this info sheet from the Province.



**Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy** for parents

Nova Scotia's schools need to be places where students can focus on learning and staff can safely do their jobs.

The Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy supports safe learning spaces. It defines acceptable and unacceptable student behaviours and guides schools in responding to unacceptable behaviours in a consistent and fair way.

### Role of Parents and Caregivers

Student success and well-being is best supported when everyone works together. You have a role to play in making sure schools are safe and supportive places to learn:

- speak with your child about appropriate school behaviours
- understand the Code of Conduct and how it applies to your child
- speak to your child's school if you have any questions about the Code of Conduct or safe behaviours
- work with school staff to respond when unacceptable behaviours happen
- model good behaviour

### Guiding Principles

- 1 Responsibility:** Everyone in the school community has a responsibility to keep schools safe.
- 2 Equity:** Responses to unacceptable behaviour are fair and consider student's needs and circumstances.
- 3 Restorative and Relationship-Building:** Responses to unacceptable behaviours include action to restore positive relationships.
- 4 Clarity and Consistency:** There is a shared understanding of what behaviour is acceptable and how unacceptable behaviours will be responded to.


### Learn More

Nova Scotia School Safety: [ednet.ns.ca/school-safety](https://ednet.ns.ca/school-safety)

Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy: [ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf](https://ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf)

Contact your Regional Centre for Education: [ednet.ns.ca/eeed-contacts/regional-centres-education-csap](https://ednet.ns.ca/eeed-contacts/regional-centres-education-csap)

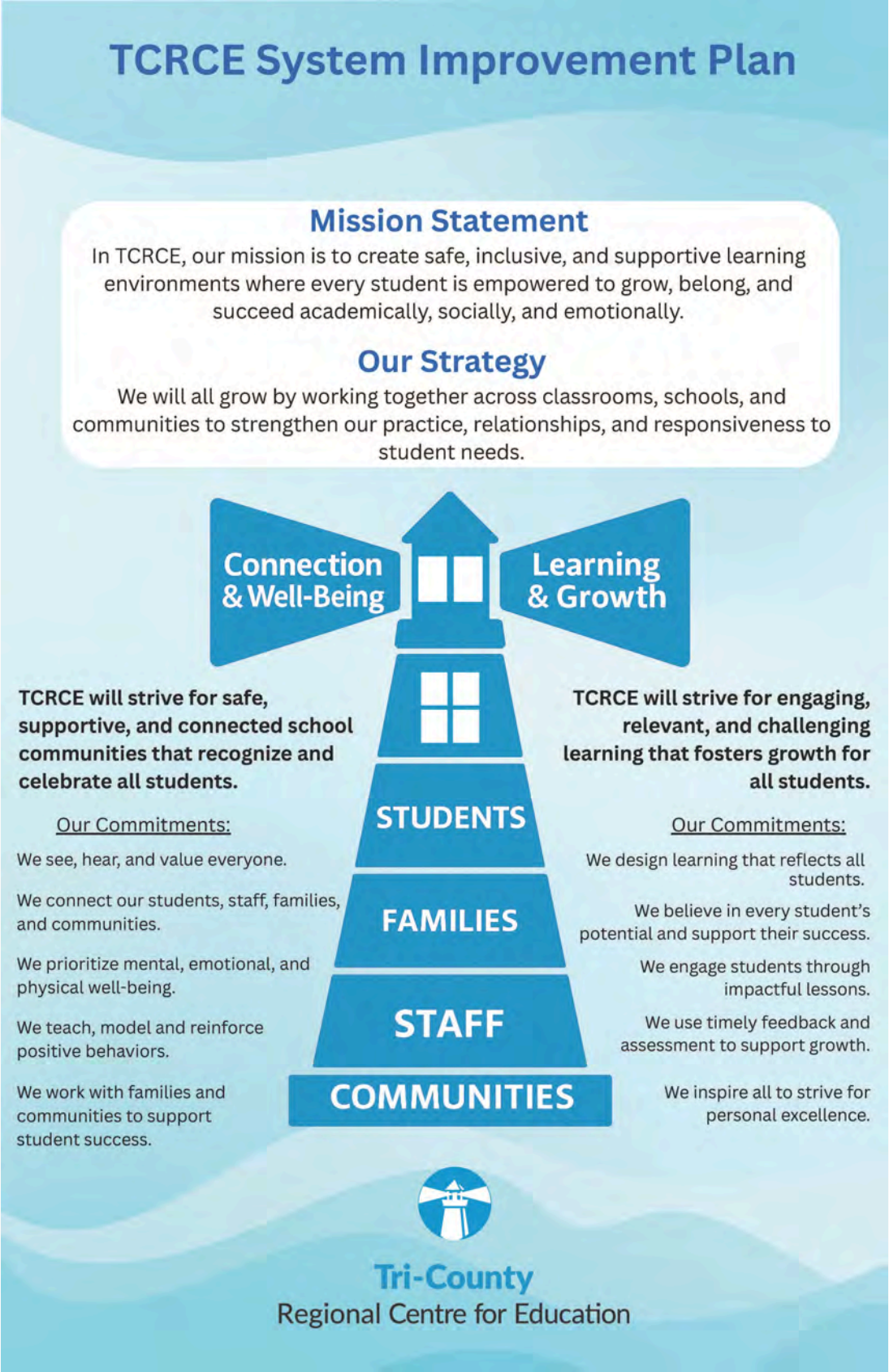
Prepared by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education, April 2025



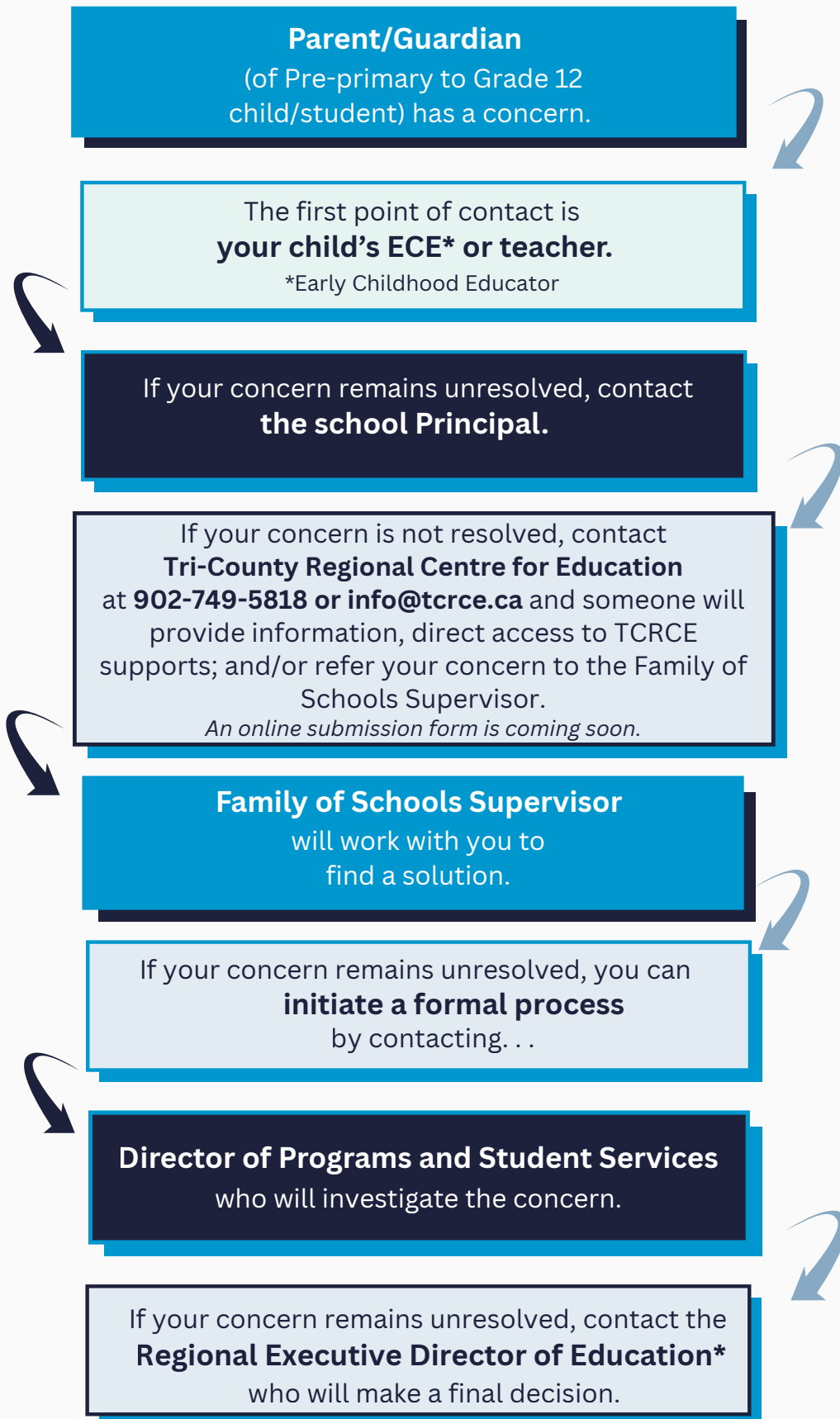


We are pleased to share our new System Improvement Plan. This plan was developed through a collaborative effort led by the TCRCE Strategic Planning Team, a group of educators and administrators from each county, along with school-based and regional staff. The group worked to shape this comprehensive and responsive plan that reflects the voices and priorities of those working directly with students every day.

We look forward to its implementation in support of improved outcomes for all learners.



# PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCERN PROTOCOL



**\*Please do not contact the Regional Executive Director  
until all other steps have been followed\***