

## What are we working towards with SchoolsPlus?

Expanding SchoolsPlus is part of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education. We are working towards increased family and youth engagement and actively planning for success.

Working with partners, SchoolsPlus offers and promotes an array of programs and services at school sites, which may include

- outreach, mentoring programs
- homework clubs, employment support
- health services (mental health clinician, youth health coordinator, pediatrician)
- community policing
- breakfast programs, nutritional classes, community gardens
- Early Years centres
- youth groups (e.g., art, culture, GSA)
- parenting support (e.g., classes, social groups)
- recreational programming (after school, March break, summer)



## Schools Plus

For more information about SchoolsPlus in Nova Scotia contact

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## Schools Plus

NOVA SCOTIA / NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

A COLLABORATIVE INTERAGENCY APPROACH  
 SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD AND FAMILY

community outreach success  
 early years health  
 welcoming children families  
 caring integrated  
 culture collaboration  
 active hub after school evenings  
 partnerships  
 support summer services  
 accessible planning info sharing

NOVA SCOTIA

## The vision for SchoolsPlus is that schools become the hub of the community, a convenient place for services to be delivered to families.

SchoolsPlus makes it easier for professionals to collaborate on behalf of children, youth, and families. Families are served in a welcoming, accessible place—a school in their own community. The services provided at each SchoolsPlus site respect and address the unique needs of the community.

Each site has a regional advisory committee with representation from various government departments, such as Justice, Health and Wellness, Community Services, and Education and Early Childhood Development, as well as community organizations. These advisory committees help identify gaps in services or resources and come up with solutions.

### How does SchoolsPlus improve delivery of programs and services for students and families? .....

SchoolsPlus provides

- a comprehensive, collaborative, integrated delivery of services
- sharing of information and resources between agencies
- timely and effective services
- accountability and use of evidence-based best practices
- service beyond the school day
- capacity building
- family-friendly schools

SchoolsPlus promotes use of school facilities by students, families, and the community through

- social work, health, justice, recreation, and mental health services offered at the school site
- Early Years centres, family resource centres, and youth health centres located within schools

### How does SchoolsPlus work? .....

SchoolsPlus sites are supported by a facilitator and a community outreach worker. They act as liaisons between the school and community and advocate, coordinate, and expand services for students and families. They help families navigate the system and get the services they need. School mental health clinicians are located in some of the participating SchoolsPlus schools to provide support and treatment to students experiencing mental health issues.

### Who is served by SchoolsPlus? .....

SchoolsPlus serves all children, youth, and families, and especially those who need additional supports and services.



### How do families access SchoolsPlus? .....

A referral for SchoolsPlus comes primarily from the principal and school Program Planning Team. Service providers, students, and families may also contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator to make a referral.



The SchoolsPlus Facilitator is then invited to school Program Planning Team meetings as required. The degree of the response will depend upon the level of need identified at the time of referral. Sometimes this will mean a simple sharing of contact information to connect families with the services they need. At other times, the facilitator may organize a meeting with a number of service providers to create an action plan with a family. We call this action plan a comprehensive service plan.

Students may need a comprehensive service plan when

- they need to be connected to multiple services
- there are barriers that prevent access to services
- a variety of services are being provided, but they still need further services for success