

# Nova Scotia School Boards Association

## Strategic Plan

### **Strategic Plan Definitions**

#### **Goals:**

Goals are related to the core mandate of the association.

Goals are a set of statements indicating longer term desired change and/or performance. They further articulate the mission statement and are strategic in nature. They must be challenging but attainable. The goals should be clearly articulated, well defined and focused. They should be specific, realistic, practical, and measurable within the operational constraints dependent on resources and time.

The goals may initially be developed through a strategic planning process. The goals should be re-examined and updated periodically if the organization is to remain dynamic and reflective of the needs of its clients. There should not be more than three to four goals.

#### **Priorities:**

Priorities are the strategies and initiatives that the board will undertake over the next year to move towards its stated goals. Every priority should be related to the goal it promotes.

There should be approximately four to six priorities for each goal. The priorities are the actions that will achieve the targets set for each performance measure. If some aspect of a priority is carried over from a previous year, please clearly indicate what new activities will be undertaken in the current year.

# 1

**Goal One:** Advocate for a sufficiently funded, equitable public education system that meets the diverse learning needs of all students and prepares them for future success.

**Priorities:**

- Identify per pupil funding in NS compared with other jurisdictions.
- Identify the cost of programs and services for a “typical” class.
- Identify the difference between targeted funding and actual costs.
- Identify the cost of specific programs and services provided equitably to all students.

# 2

**Goal Two:** Promote quality education for our students as a priority with the public and with government.

**Priorities:**

- Enhance understanding of the importance and success of local education initiatives.
- Increase the understanding and support of Nova Scotians who do not have children in the public school system (non-parents).
- Increase collaboration and communication with partners who share responsibility for children and youth (communities and municipal governments).
- Strategic Communications Plan that focuses on non-parents, communities, and municipalities, and on current initiatives including successful local school board initiatives

# 3

**Goal Three:** Provide professional development and support to school board/board members to increase the effectiveness of governing school boards.

**Priorities:**

- Support school boards in understanding the role of school boards
  - Support board members in their role as governing boards
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# 4

**Goal four:** Develop and maintain strong partnerships for the well-being and learning needs of all students.

**Priorities:**

- Develop a framework for partnerships.
- Initiate new partnerships with various province-wide organizations that support the well-being and learning needs of all students.

*NOTE: Outcomes would include organizations such as: Inspiring Communities, Nova Scotia Health Authority, Municipal Affairs, Social Government Departments (Departments of Community Services, Justice, Seniors, Health)*

- Continue to grow existing partnerships.  
*NOTE: Outcomes would include partnerships with organizations such as: ANSEA, NSFHSA, NSEL, Nova Scotia Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee Some of these organizations will move to goal 2 for collaboration related to promotion and communication.*

# 5

**Goal five:** Strengthen the autonomy and authority of governing school boards: responsibilities, duties, powers, and accountabilities.

**Priorities:**

- Develop a research-based Provincial Governance Framework, including performance accountability standards and measures for consideration by governing school boards
- Define school board autonomy and authority including program development and implementation and budgets

*NOTE: This will inform PD in goal 3*

- Define the role of school boards and school board members  
*NOTE: This will inform the advocacy to government in goal 1*
- Define the balance between accountability to the public and accountability to the Minister of EECD.