



Kids & Learning First

Nova Scotia has many hard-working teachers, class sizes are smaller, and the province is investing more money per student than ever before. However, there are also some serious challenges. The province has 30,000 fewer students than 10 years ago, and this trend will continue.

Assessments show we are losing ground in fundamental skills such as math, reading, and writing. Previous governments spent more and more money on fewer students, yet results did not improve.

Kids & Learning First is the province's plan to help every student succeed. The plan is about doing things differently by focusing on students' needs. Budget 2012 provides the first year of multi-year funding to put kids and learning first.

Budget 2012 will

- provide funding for new school construction—\$48.8 million
- additions and alterations work at numerous school locations—\$46.3 million
- expand SchoolsPlus into more regions, giving families, students, and seniors the ability to use services and activities at central locations—\$2 million
- support students in small and rural communities by tripling the number of students who can participate in courses through online virtual classrooms—\$1.8 million
- increase funding per student to \$10,457, the highest it has ever been
- ensure that class sizes remain at their current 20-year low
- double the number of schools offering skilled trades, and introduce a new course, Manufacturing Trades 11, that will help prepare students for upcoming shipbuilding opportunities—\$1 million
- create a state-of-the-art skilled trades centre, and other upgrades, at Cole Harbour High to link classroom learning to shipbuilding and other jobs—\$10 million
- establish skilled trades centres in other parts of the province—\$5 million
- expand Succeeding in Reading into grade 2
- develop a personal development credit that will allow students to get credit for pursuing individual interests, such as cadets and Junior Achievement, and making a difference in their community
- provide Conseil scolaire acadien provincial with funding specific to its cultural mandate
- work with stakeholders to expand the Options and Opportunities program to allow more students to participate
- review high school courses to ensure that students are learning what they need to be successful
- launch a cyberbullying social marketing campaign while reviewing all recommendations contained in the recent report—\$350,000