

NOVA SCOTIA

# SchoolsPlus

A COLLABORATIVE INTERAGENCY APPROACH TO  
SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD AND FAMILY



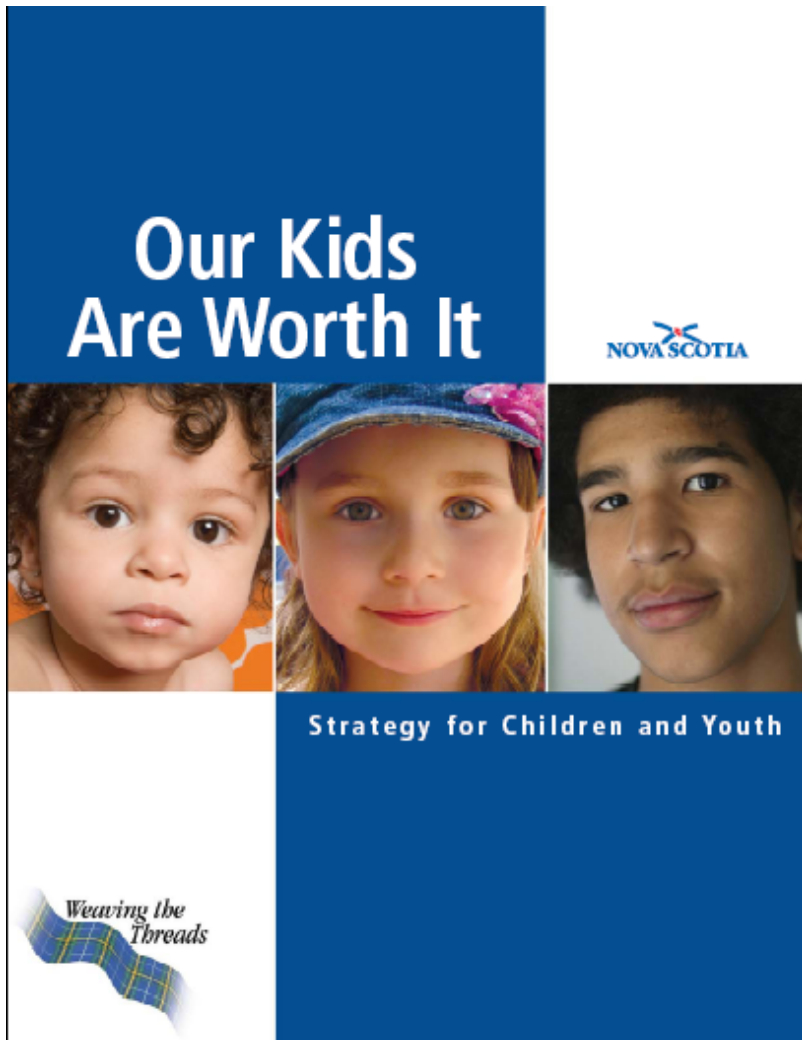
NOVA SCOTIA  
Education

NOVA SCOTIA  
Education

# Schools Plus

- Collaborative interagency approach to supporting the whole child and family.
- Schools become centers of service delivery enabling enhanced collaboration by bringing professionals and programs together to help children, youth and families in a welcoming place.
- The vision is for schools to become the hub of the community and services are co-located.
- The services provided respect and address the unique needs of each community.

# Background

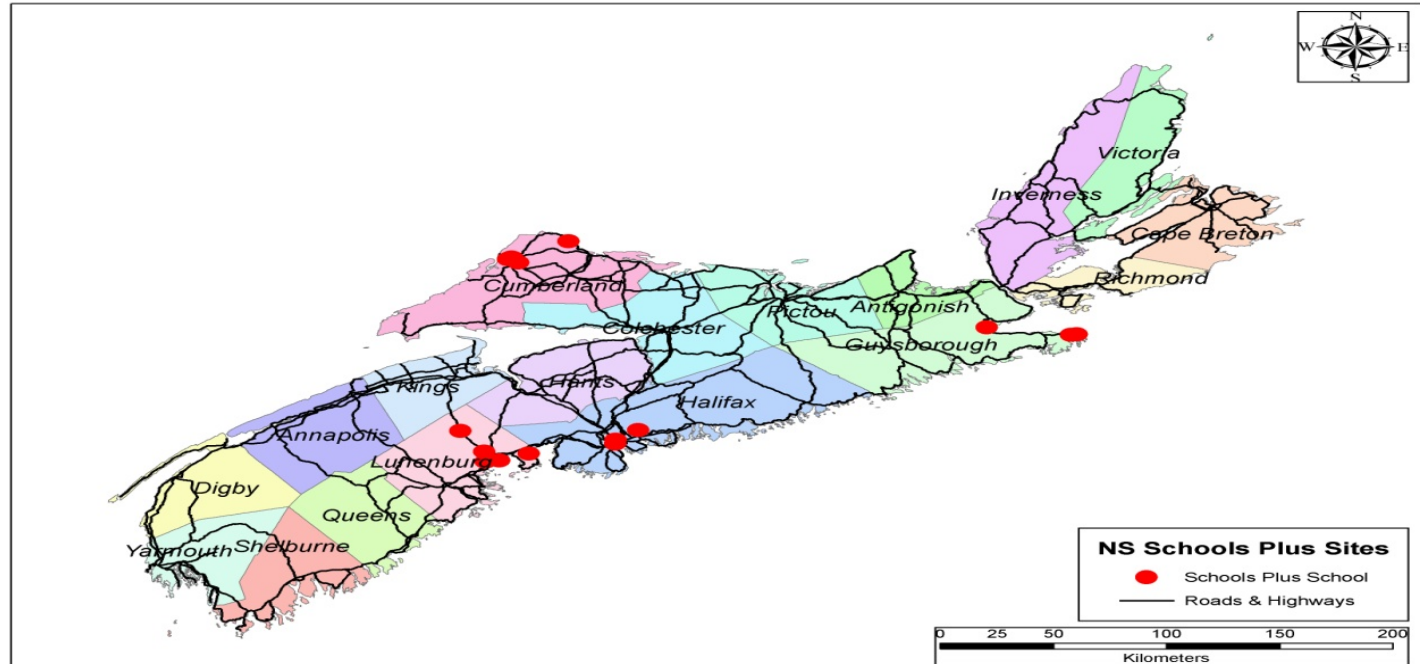


- Our Kids Are Worth It: Strategy for Children and Youth
- Commissioner Nunn's recommendations of the need for improved co-ordination and collaboration in the delivery of programs and services for children and youth
- October 2008 Schools Plus

# Schools Plus in Nova Scotia currently

## 4 school boards with Schools Plus sites:

- Halifax Regional School Board (7 schools)
- Strait Regional School Board (5 schools)
- South Shore Regional School Board (6 schools)
- Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (6 schools)



# Key Elements of Schools Plus

## **Schools Plus Coordinator:**

Framework development

## **Schools Plus Facilitators:**

- Expand Services
- Coordinate
- Advocate

## **Provincial Steering Committee:**

- Meets monthly to discuss implementation

## **Schools Plus Community Outreach Workers:**

Mentor, link between school and community

## **Regional Advisory Committee:**

- DOE, DCS, Health, Justice, HPP and community organizations
- Meets monthly
- Enhance and expand the array of services

## The Schools Plus Model is being designed to:

- Develop an array of programs and services offered at school sites
- Timely and effective services
- Accountability and utilization of evidence based best practices
- Enhance the use of school facilities and service beyond the school day
- Capacity building
- Improve student engagement and school success
- Co-location /Integrated Service Delivery

# Schools Plus Accomplishments

- Increased collaborative programming at schools (e.g. Restorative Practices, Options to Anger, Parent Alert, MH-IN, Voices, Incredible Years)
- Created better awareness and connections, information-sharing and mutual understanding about what each partner can and cannot do
- Developed a collaborative process at the four sites whereby needs are being identified and some of those needs are being met

# Successes/Impacts of SchoolsPlus Model to Date

- Reaching “disengaged” families and students
- Navigation through systems
- Earlier identification of needs
- Regional Advisory Committees
- Joint training – capacity building

# Recommendation to Expand Schools Plus

- The external evaluation recommended the expansion of Schools Plus
- “The impact of Schools Plus on children and families, schools and service-providers has been overwhelmingly positive”
- “The costs of not continuing SP and of not addressing the systemic barriers to integrated service delivery are huge”

# Complexities & challenges:

- Systemic challenges
- Joint information – sharing protocol
- Students and families who do not clearly fit government mandates but require services
- Barriers to reallocation and co-location
- Transportation, especially in rural areas
- Existing physical space at some schools

[www.ednet.ns.ca/schoolsplus](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/schoolsplus)



*Brighter futures*