

# Teaching Standards

## for Nova Scotia

Discussion Document 2016

- 1 Teachers know, respond to, and engage all students.
- 2 Teachers know their subjects and how to teach them.
- 3 Teachers use 'Assessment *for* and *of* Learning' to guide teaching and learning.

- 4 Teachers create safe and positive learning environments.
- 5 Teachers participate in professional learning throughout their careers.
- 6 Teachers model and promote professionalism in teaching.

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### 1 Teachers know, respond to, and engage all students.

Teachers are student-centered and hold high expectations for student success. Teachers know their students and have a broad understanding of how students develop and learn. They use information about student development and diverse cultures, learning strengths and needs, languages and life experiences to guide all aspects of teaching. They provide culturally-responsive, engaging learning experiences that enable students to achieve the learning outcomes. Teachers consider the core values of diversity, equity and inclusivity in their decisions about curriculum, instruction, assessment, student engagement, and classroom management.

### 2 Teachers know their subjects and how to teach them.

Teachers use their knowledge and skill in content and pedagogy to provide high-quality teaching. They use broad knowledge and information from different sources to make the curriculum accessible and engaging for students. Teachers gather input from parents and guardians, families and/or communities to create meaningful learning opportunities. They also rely on classroom experience, educational research, and professional learning to continuously inform and update their practice. Teachers provide instruction in the higher-order thinking skills that are essential for students in contemporary society. They respond to diverse student learning needs through culturally-responsive teaching and individualized program planning. Teachers are knowledgeable about and utilize provincial curricula, initiatives, policies, learning resources, technologies, and assessment strategies. They teach literacy across subjects and grade levels as an embedded component of their teaching. Teachers know about and utilize the teaching approaches that research has shown to have the greatest impact on student learning.

### **3 Teachers use 'Assessment for and of Learning' to guide teaching and learning.**

Student assessment is an essential part of teaching and learning. Teachers are knowledgeable and skilled in the use of assessment *for* and *of* learning and the use of assessment data to foster student success. They align assessment activities with learning outcomes to guide teaching and learning, monitor student progress, and engage students in self-assessment. Teachers tailor assessment to meet the needs of all students through culturally-responsive assessment practices and program planning. Teachers involve students in the assessment process to foster independence and ownership for their learning. Teachers communicate the criteria for success to students and provide them with prompt, descriptive feedback.

### **4 Teachers create safe and positive learning environments.**

Teachers create and maintain positive learning environments that are equitable, inclusive, and safe. Teachers follow the *Provincial School Code of Conduct* and other policies associated with student behaviour. They establish respectful relationships with students, parents and guardians, colleagues, and other partners in education. They provide culturally-responsive and student-centered responses to differences in student behaviour associated with culture, language, and life experience. Teachers address unacceptable student behaviour in an equitable, consistent and fair manner. They work with parents and guardians, guidance counsellors, mental health professionals, and others to address student behavioural challenges, mental health concerns, and special needs in innovative and progressive ways.

### **5 Teachers participate in professional learning throughout their careers.**

Teachers engage in professional learning activities that support their professional growth in the attributes, knowledge and skills essential to teaching. Their professional learning is focused on high-quality teaching that is responsive to the needs of their students. They identify and address their professional learning needs through self-reflection and collaboration. Throughout their careers, teachers participate in and/or contribute to formal and informal professional learning activities. They use professional learning to stay current in educational research, technology, policy, inclusion and many other aspects of their professional practice. Teachers apply professional learning to create changes in classroom practice that support student achievement and success. They also use professional learning to enhance their knowledge and skills in preparation for new opportunities and changing teaching assignments.

### **6 Teachers model and promote professionalism in teaching.**

Teachers model professionalism characterized by integrity, honesty, trust, and respect. They demonstrate commitment to the best interest and well-being of students. They promote public confidence in the teaching profession through high-quality teaching that supports student success. Teachers are knowledgeable about and fulfill their professional, ethical, legal, and contractual responsibilities, including the confidentiality requirements associated with their work. Teachers foster positive and respectful relationships with students, parents and guardians, families, colleagues, communities and others partners in education. They demonstrate professional conduct while completing a range of assigned duties in a variety of settings, including schools, communities, digital sites, and social media. Teachers demonstrate a commitment to the school community through participation in school activities. They serve as role models for the students that they teach and as ambassadors for their profession.