

## MEMORANDUM

TO: → → Nova Scotia Educators (P-12)

FROM: → → Sandra McKenzie & Joan Ling

DATE: → → September 25, 2017

RE: → → Teaching Standards 2017

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) and the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union (NSTU) have partnered to re-introduce the Teaching Standards for Nova Scotia in 2017-2018.

The Teaching Standards were introduced in September 2016, with the original goal of being fully implemented in 2017. The 2016-2017 school year was a turbulent one in public education, and the rollout of the Teaching Standards was not consistent or effective. During this discussion year, we want to invite you to engage in positive conversations with your colleagues and your administration about the Teaching Standards and to develop a supportive implementation of them.

The Teaching Standards are the foundation for positive changes to our education system. Work is already underway around redesigning Bachelor of Education programs and accrediting the university schools of education. This year's discussion of Teaching Standards will also inform the development of new teacher appraisal processes and professional learning programs for teachers.

The Teaching Standards will provide a framework to engage educators, individually and collectively, in discussions of best practices in teaching and learning. This engagement and reflection on high-quality teaching will help us reach the goals of increased student engagement and achievement. It is important then to provide the time and opportunity to engage and respond to the Teaching Standards.

**In your role as an educator in P-12**, we are asking you to take part in conversations around the Teaching Standards. We have asked all the Superintendents and principals to ensure time is allotted for these discussions to take place. Teaching Standards documents are available on the EduPortal as well as on the NSTU website.

We need your input to ensure that the Teaching Standards reflect a collective vision of what good teaching looks like. Formal opportunities to provide feedback are being planned; you can comment anytime by emailing [teachingstandards@novascotia.ca](mailto:teachingstandards@novascotia.ca)

If you have any questions or concerns, you can be in touch with the partnership leads for this work: (EECD) Paula Hayden, [paula.hayden@novascotia.ca](mailto:paula.hayden@novascotia.ca); (NSTU) Anne Rodrigue, [arodrigue@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:arodrigue@staff.nstu.ca)