



**autism**  
NOVA SCOTIA



# PARENT EDUCATION GUIDE

The Nova Scotia Department of Education recognizes and endorses the basic right of all students to full and equal participation in education.



For a child with autism spectrum disorder, however the education experience may look different based on the child's strength and needs. As your child's primary advocate, you have both rights and responsibilities which can help support your child to reach his/her full potential.

## **RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

In order for your child to be as successful as possible in school, there needs to be collaboration between parents, children, teachers, administration, and the board. It is the responsibility of the school board to provide structure; it is the responsibility of the designated staff to implement these structures; and it is the responsibility of the family and school to work collaboratively to uphold these structures. Examples of these structures can include IPP (Individualized Program Plan), student placement, supports in the classroom, etc.

### **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

As parents, you are responsible to:

- » Support the rules of the school
- » Support the work in the classroom
- » Ensure that your child is in attendance
- » Ensure that your child is respectful and responsible
- » Provide accurate, up-to-date information about your child
- » Learn about the curriculum and expectations of your child
- » Communicate with teachers regarding expectations, progress, and support
- » Attend school functions and meetings
- » Be a positive role-model
- » Play an active role in your child's education

## PARENT RIGHTS

As parents, you have the right to inquire and be provided information about school, including: schedules, rules, classroom, school events, dress code, general, procedures (absences, visitors, drills, etc), disciplinary action.

As parents, you have the right to view all of your child's records including: attendance, grades, assessments, health and immunization, Incident Reports and disciplinary records.

When a situation occurs regarding your child's program, for the best results, there is a system hierarchy to follow. The first impulse may be to contact the Department of Education. However, the situation may be best addressed at a lower level via working with your child's teacher or principal. If school board resources become exhausted, consulting with the Department of Education may be necessary.

## HIERARCHY OF STEPS





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**“Schools and parents need to work together in order for children to have the best, most successful experience”**

## **USEFUL RESOURCES:**

Refer to the following sources for more detailed information:

### **The Program Planning Process: A Guide for Parents**

[www.studentservices.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/program-planning-process.pdf](http://www.studentservices.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/program-planning-process.pdf)

### **Programming for Students with ASD**

<http://tinyurl.com/mv9cqrb>

### **Special Education Policy**

<http://tinyurl.com/ks42ljc>

## **Autism Nova Scotia**

Founded in 2002, Autism Nova Scotia (ANS) is a non-profit, registered charity located in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Autism Nova Scotia was the original vision of Joan and Jack Craig, parents of an adult son with autism. Today, ANS supports individuals with autism, their families, educators, healthcare professionals and researchers throughout Nova Scotia.

Autism Nova Scotia provides information materials, research assistance, a variety of program opportunities and a friendly atmosphere to support our members in their desire to understand autism. We offer assistance to individuals with autism so that they can live full and rich lives.

**Our Vision: A world where all people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can live their lives fully.**

**Contact us to learn more about our programs and services!**

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