

Investing in Early Years and Education

Government will continue to help students get a good start and reach their full potential by investing in early learning and improving public education.

Budget 2018–19 includes

Early Years

- \$17.6 million to expand free pre-primary by adding about 130 classes, for a total of \$24 million this year, as part of a plan to have pre-primary available across the province
- \$15.5 million to make regulated child care more accessible, affordable, and inclusive by adding up to 1,000 more spaces and expanding the child care subsidy for 1,600 eligible children (fully recoverable from the federal government)

Quality Education

- \$10 million increase to implement new recommendations of the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions, for a total of \$20 million
- \$15 million to begin to implement recommendations of the Commission on Inclusive Education
- \$1.6 million more to expand SchoolsPlus into 54 more schools, for a total of \$9.8 million
- \$3.3 million increase to Reading Recovery, for a total of \$10.6 million, to expand to 96% of schools this year, with every school having programming in September 2019

Infrastructure

- Continuing work on school construction, including Yarmouth Elementary School, Eastern District P–12 School (Sheet Harbour), Eastern Passage 9–12 School (Halifax), South Peninsula Elementary School (Halifax), and replacing J.L. Ilsley High School (Spryfield)
- Purchasing P3 schools Horton High School (Greenwich), O'Connell Drive Elementary (Porters Lake), and Riverside Education Centre (Milford)
- Opening four skilled trades centres this year at Amherst High School, Sir John A. Macdonald High School (Upper Tantallon), Richmond Academy (Louisdale), and Central Kings Rural High School (Cambridge)
- Renovations to Brookland Elementary School and Frank H. MacDonald Elementary School (Sutherlands River) and funding for necessary capital improvements to schools across the province