

## School Food and Nutrition Policy

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is pleased to share the revised *School Food and Nutrition Policy* that has been developed in partnership with the Department of Health and Wellness, Nova Scotia Health, and Public Health and in collaboration with staff from the Regional Centers for Education (RCEs) and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP). The policy focuses on ensuring that food sold, served, and available on-site in schools helps build a foundation for lifelong healthy eating habits, thereby promoting health and well-being for all students. The policy applies to all schools and includes pre-primary children, in addition to students.

EECD is also pleased to share the *School Food and Beverage Standards*, a provincial document, based on *Canada's Food Guide*, which offers clear instructions about what constitutes healthy food. The definitions and use of Minimum, Moderate, and Maximum Nutrition food categories were removed and have been replaced with the *School Food and Beverage Standards*.

The policy will take effect **October 2024**, and will replace any related policies currently in place in schools at that time. Regional, board and school staff are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new policy to prepare for implementation. Any feedback or questions can be shared with RCEs and the CSAP who, in collaboration with EECD, will aim to provide any required clarification to increase understanding and support successful implementation. We appreciate your on-going support in creating healthy school food environments for students and staff. We are committed to working with RCEs and the CSAP to ensure the policy is successfully implemented across the province.

Original signed by

**Hon. Becky Druhan**

Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development