

Building Our Plan Together

During the winter of 2025, engagement sessions and surveys were conducted to capture the voices of teachers and experts from diverse groups. The input gathered informs the content of the discussion paper, intended to initiate a collective discussion of what’s needed to improve the education system.

Results and Key Data Points

The current education plan, which includes early childhood and K-12 public education, included 52 measures, with 55 data points. Results show:

- **24** have shown improvement, including **4 measures** that met their targets.
- **23** have declined.
- **8 measures** have no data or were not tracked.

Learning achievement results have persistently fallen short of targets. However, recent provincial assessments show some improvement in 11 out of 16 areas. Provincial testing through the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2021-22 showed the following results:

- **Mathematics:** Canadian and NB scores significantly decreased from 2012-2022. NB students scored at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average, but below the Canadian average, comparable to other Atlantic provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
- **Reading:** Canadian and NB scores declined from 2000-2022; including a significant drop between 2018 and 2022. NB students scored at the OECD average, along with all other provinces.
- **Science:** Canadian and NB scores declined from 2015-2022. NB students scored above the OECD average. All provinces except Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia experienced declines over this period.

Recent Efforts

Common areas of priority have been established across the districts’ improvement plans and the existing provincial education plan:

- **Literacy:** Learners meet reading, writing and oral outcomes at grade level.
- **Numeracy:** Learners meet number outcomes at grade level.
- **Well-being:** Learners report improved mental health and have a strong sense of school connectedness.

The **Early Childhood Action Plan**, part of a Canada-wide initiative, informs 36 projects to strengthen services in the areas of inclusion and diversity, quality learning environments, access and affordability, and workforce development. Nine projects are complete and 27 are underway to be completed by March 2026.

2026 Education Plan: Consultation Phase





Methods of Engagement

- Targeted consultations (in person and virtual)
- Discussion activities during pre-scheduled events (conferences, PL days)
- Online survey
- Public consultations

Voices to Be Heard During Consultations

- Educational community (early learning and K-12)
- Learners
- Family and community
- Indigenous communities
- Education partners
- Interdepartmental partners
- New Brunswickers

Emerging Areas for Consideration in the Next Education Plan

Refocusing on Learning

In recent years, our K-12 education system has faced numerous challenges that have diverted attention from the core mission: student learning. The decline in reading and mathematics performance indicates a need to reestablish priorities on foundational learning and evidence-based approaches.

Enhancing Learning Environments

Over the past decade, there has been a focus on building relationships and creating welcoming learning environments. These efforts must continue to be strengthened. However, teachers indicate growing challenges such as increasingly complex needs, negativity and disinformation spread through social media, disruptive behaviours, gaps in learning, and inconsistent attendance.

Addressing Well-Being

Children and youth learn more effectively when their well-being is supported. We need families and government departments to collaborate in supporting young people with mental health challenges, from early childhood through graduation. This may require new funding and service delivery models.

Enhancing Workforce Stability

We need more education professionals to serve our growing and diverse population of learners, yet many qualified educators and support staff are leaving for alternative careers or retiring early. Establishing a stable, qualified workforce must be our top priority.