

Office of the Superintendent



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Parents/Guardians,

As Superintendent of the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB), I am pleased to share with you some news that will come in to effect for the 2017-2018 school year.

Beginning in September, students in Grade Primary to Grade Two will attend school for at least 300 minutes per day. This is a change from the current practice in our school board where students in these grades are dismissed 30 minutes earlier than other students.

The HRSB is the only school board in Nova Scotia to have an early dismissal for all Grade Primary to Grade Two students. This change will bring our board in to alignment with what is happening across the province.

We are excited to share this news because we believe it will benefit students and teachers by providing them with more time for learning and teaching. Educational research supports the addition of time to the school day as being beneficial for all students when paired with effective instruction.

This change will add an additional 93 hours, the equivalent of more than 18 days, of school for Grade Primary to Grade Two students. The addition of this time will provide more opportunities to explore a range of learning opportunities, including in literacy and mathematics which are critical building blocks for all students. As part of this decision, students in Grade Primary to Grade Three will receive an additional 30 minutes of physical education each week, delivered by a qualified physical education teacher.

I hope you welcome this news. It is part of our ongoing efforts to *provide a high quality education for every student every day*. I would encourage you to share this information with anyone you know who may have a child starting school with us in September.

If you have any questions, I would encourage you to speak with your school principal.

Regards,



Elwin LeRoux
Superintendent of Schools