

# New Approach to Delivering Support Services to School-Aged Children, Youth and their Families

Presentation to Learning Partners

April 10, 2017



# INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS

- District Advisory Councils – feedback from parents and students
- Principals' Council – feedback from school staff
- School Supports Review (Westisle, Montague, Colonel Gray) – input from principals, counselors, Department of EELC, research, jurisdiction scan. Intended to result in pilot projects to improve access to support services
- Better Learning for All– input from individuals and groups through surveys, meetings, etc.

# WHAT WE HEARD

- Families and school staff are not aware of the some of the programs and services available in the community or how to access these programs
- Challenges related to wait times for services, transportation to appointments in rural communities, etc.
- Available services not well coordinated or integrated
- Some schools do not have adequate access to key school programs and services, resulting in service gaps– e.g. APlus; psychology; occupational therapy; school counselling; English as an additional language (EAL) supports
- Some communities are experiencing greater needs for social supports due to higher rates of social challenges (e.g. single parent homes; lower education levels; lower income levels; and unemployment or underemployment).
- More focus needed on prevention and early intervention
- Research recommends delivering services where children are (e.g. in schools)
- Government and communities need to work together to support the social and emotional needs of children, youth and their families

# WHAT NEEDS TO BE DIFFERENT

- Increased awareness of available programs and services
  - Reduced wait times for services
  - More services available in schools
  - Improved service coordination
  - Better outcomes for children, youth and families
  - Communities playing a leadership role to ensure children and youth have the social and emotional supports and opportunities they need to succeed
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# ELEMENTS OF NEW APPROACH

- Core team of dedicated staff working in schools, delivering direct services to children, youth and families
    - School health nurses
    - Mental health social workers/clinical coordinators
    - Youth workers
  - Enhanced Multi Agency School Support Team (MASST)
    - Includes core team members and representatives from other service agencies
    - Facilitates improved coordination between service agencies
    - Meets quarterly with community representatives to discuss trends, community needs, opportunities for collaboration/innovation
  - Address program/service gaps
    - School therapy program (Occupational Therapy)
    - A+
    - School counselling
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# ELEMENTS OF NEW APPROACH

- Focus on health promotion and prevention of injury and illness through new health curriculum
    - PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) elementary health curriculum
    - New intermediate health curriculum
  - Increased access to family support programming
    - Increased access to Strongest Families telehealth service
    - Increased access to Triple P parenting program
  - Increased awareness of available services
    - Service pathways
    - Public communication and education
  - Increased community engagement
    - Community Agencies
    - Industry
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# Phased Implementation

## Enhanced MASST Core Teams

- 2017/2018
  - Montague Family of Schools (1772 students)
  - Westisle Family of Schools (1997 students)
- 2018/2019
  - Colonel Gray Family of Schools (3366 students)
  - Souris and Morell Families of Schools (1074 students)
  - Bluefield Family of Schools (3005 students)
- 2019/2020
  - Charlottetown Rural Family of Schools (3907 students)
  - Kinkora and Kensington Families of Schools (1013 students)
  - Three Oakes Family of Schools (2916 students)
- French Language Schools – Consultation required

Multi-Agency School Support Team (MASST) Structure  
Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture

**CORE TEAM**  
**Mental Health Social Worker/Clinical**

**CORE TEAM**  
**School Health Nurse**

**CORE TEAM**  
**Youth Worker**

**CORE TEAM**  
**Board-Based Counselling Consultant**

Screening  
Therapy  
Risk assessment  
Group Work  
Health Promotion  
Best Practice/Clinical Leadership  
Liaison with specialized mental health services

Assessments, screening, interventions  
Counselling, support & guidance  
Transition and referral to services  
Education on sexuality, relationships and screening for sexually transmitted infections  
Health promotion/community development  
Support development and delivery of school health curriculum

Intensive one-on-one support to children, youth and families in schools, home and community  
Individual and small group interventions – anger management, behavior support, drug & alcohol awareness, social skills

Consult/advise on student specific case planning

**Associate Team**  
**Family Ties**

**Associate Team**  
**Justice**

**Associate Team**  
**Police**

**Associate Team**  
**Mental Health**

**Associate Team**  
**Addictions**

**Associate Team**  
**School-based Counsellor**

**Community Advisory Groups**  
**Home and School**  
**CMHA, Industry**

Questions?