

Educational Policies Related to Language Disorders in Nova Scotia



Inclusive educational framework: Nova Scotia's educational framework is committed to ensuring high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive, and equitable education that supports the well-being and achievement of every student.

Categories of exceptionalities: Nova Scotia recognizes 12 categories of identified exceptionalities, including specific learning disabilities; ADHD; chronic health impairments; autism; emotional, mental health, and/or behavioural disorders; vision loss, hearing loss, deaf-blindness; physical disability/motor impairment; intellectual disability; acquired brain injury; and, multiple disabilities/complex needs.

Students must receive a diagnosis of an exceptionality from a qualified professional, (e.g., speech-language pathologist or educational psychologist).

Recognizing speech and language disorders: Nova Scotia also recognizes speech/language/communication disorders as an exceptionality.

According to the 2018 Report of the Commission on Inclusive Education*, 12% of students with exceptionalities in Nova Scotia have a speech/language/communication challenge.



*Njie, A., Shea, S., & Williams, M. (2018). *Students First: Report of the Commission on Inclusive Education*. The Commission on Inclusive Education. <https://inclusiveedns.ca/final-report/>

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a persistent language difficulty that interferes with a child's learning, understanding, and communication and is not explained by other conditions (e.g., hearing loss, autism) or extenuating circumstances (e.g., lack of exposure to language).

DLD affects a child's learning, understanding, and communication; however, their language difficulties will differ from child to child.

No provinces or territories use the term DLD (QC uses a synonym)

DLD affects about 2 children in every classroom

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