2022-23 **Annual Report**

Education







MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister of Education, I am pleased to present the 2022-23 Annual Report for the Department of Education, which was prepared in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. This report covers the department's annual objectives for April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 as well as the 2020-23 reporting period.

During the 2020-23 planning period, the mandate for the Department of Education covered Early Learning and Child Care, K-12 Education, and Post-Secondary Education. I am delighted to share the results we have attained throughout the 2020-23 planning period, especially in our efforts to achieve the goals and objectives.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our departmental staff, partners, and stakeholders, whose dedication and hard work have been instrumental in achieving our 2022-23 objectives. Some of the key accomplishments are as follows:

- Implemented \$10-a-day regulated child care, three years ahead of the national target;
- Completed implementation of the recommendations from the Education Action Plan to improve educational outcomes in the K-12 education system;
- Introduced a new Tuition Relief Grant for Memorial University students in response to the increase in tuition fees at the university; and,
- Continued implementation of year-four initiatives in the Adult Literacy Action Plan.

My signature below is indicative of my accountability for the results reported.

Hon. Krista Lynn Howell Minister of Education



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Departmental Overview

Organizational Structure

The Department of Education is a category one Provincial Government entity under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. In 2022-23, it was responsible for achieving outcomes with respect to provincial early learning and child development, the K-12 education system, and post-secondary education.

During 2022-23, the programs and services were provided through four branches:

Early Learning Branch

This branch includes the divisions of Early Childhood Learning, and Child Development.

Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Branch

This branch includes the divisions of Evaluation and Research, and Programs and Services.

Post-Secondary Education Branch

This branch includes the divisions of Literacy and Institutional Services, and Student Financial Services.

Corporate Services Branch

This branch includes the divisions of Financial Services, and Policy and Information Management.

The main offices of the Department of Education are located in the West Block of the Confederation Building in St. John's. The Learning Resources Distribution Centre is located in Pleasantville, St. John's and Student Aid Offices are located at Coughlan College, Memorial University. Early learning and child care services are provided throughout the province in offices located in St. John's, Whitbourne, Harbour Grace,

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Clarenville, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor, Springdale, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador City.

Additional information on the Department of Education can be found at https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/.

Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2023, the Department of Education had 227 employees. The department is headquartered in St. John's, with regional child care offices throughout the province to deliver its programs and services. For the 2022-23 fiscal year, the departmental budget was \$1,268,288,500.

Division	# of Employees	Budget
Executive Services ¹	10	\$1,200,700
Corporate Services	16	\$3,796,900
Early Learning	86	\$75,408,300
K-12 Education	75	\$799,524,800
Post-Secondary Education	40	\$388,357,800
Total	227	\$1,268,288,500

¹ This number includes communications and executive support staff.

Vision

Effective and modern learning environments that foster inclusive and healthy communities for all learners in the province.

Mandate

The Minister of Education is responsible for all matters relating to a high-quality educational system in the province, from early learning and child care to K-12 education and post-secondary education.

The mandate for the department is primarily established under the Departmental Notices under the **Executive Council Act**, and other pieces of legislation that support the mandate are as follows:

- Child Care Act;
- College Act, 1996;
- Council on Higher Education Act;
- Degree Granting Act;
- Memorial University Act;
- Memorial University Pensions Act;
- Private Training Institutions Act;
- Public Libraries Act;
- Schools Act, 1997;
- Student Financial Assistance Act, 2019;
- Teacher Training Act; and
- Teachers' Association Act.

Lines of Business

Our programs and services enable a high-quality learning environment from early learning to K-12 to post-secondary education, focused on ensuring all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have a bright start in life and continued opportunities for learning.

What we do:

Early Learning and Child Care:

- Develop and monitor legislation, policies and programs to support child care and early years programs.
- Provide financial support for the development and operation of child care centres, family child care homes, family child care agencies and community agencies, such as, family resource centres.
- Support early learners with diverse learning needs in early learning environments.
- License, monitor, and inspect child care services.
- Evaluate the child care system through data collection, analysis, planning and research.
- Support children's transition from child care to the K-12 education system.
- Provide parent resources and supports such as the child care subsidy and parent resource kits.

K-12 Education:

- Oversee K-12 educational policies, legislation and regulations.
- Fund and support Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador.

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- Fund and support the interim board of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District until it is fully integrated into the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Develop and monitor English and French curricula and programs.
- Create and/or select curriculum documents and teaching resources.
- Evaluate curriculum and assess outcomes.
- Support students with diverse learning needs.
- Monitor education system performance through data collection and analysis, planning and research.
- Set requirements for student diplomas and certificates.
- Set requirements for teacher development and certification.
- Fund and support public libraries.

Post-Secondary Education:

- Support the delivery of post-secondary education through Memorial University of Newfoundland, College of the North Atlantic, and private training institutions.
- Fund public post-secondary institutions.
- Regulate and monitor private training institutions.
- Administer the student financial assistance programs.
- Provide programs and services for adult learning.

Highlights and Partnerships

The details below illustrate some of the key accomplishments and partnerships of the Department of Education in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Highlights

Provincial Scholarships: In 2022-23, more than \$200,000 in provincial scholarships were awarded to 201 high school graduates across Newfoundland and Labrador¹. The scholarships ranged in value from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and are intended to help students pursue post-secondary education. Due to the cancellation of June 2022 public exams, the scholarship process was applied to the marks students received based on school examinations in the relevant subject areas for all members of the class of 2022. Previous public exam results were not considered in this calculation.

The scholarships awarded include:

- The Junior Jubilee Scholarship, valued at \$2,500. This was awarded to the student who attained the highest overall marks in the province.
- The Constable W.C. Moss Scholarship, valued at \$1,000. This was awarded to
 the son or daughter of a member of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary or the
 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (active, retired or deceased) who, other than the
 Junior Jubilee winner, achieved the highest marks.
- The Electoral District Scholarships, valued at \$1,000 each. These were awarded to the three high school graduates with the highest marks in each electoral district.
- The Centenary of Responsible Government Scholarships, valued at \$1,000 each.
 These were awarded to the remaining high school graduates with the highest

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¹ A complete list of the Provincial Government Scholarship winners can be found at https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2022/education/1103n03/

marks who did not qualify for the Junior Jubilee, Constable W.C. Moss, or the Electoral District Scholarships.

Safe, Caring and Inclusive Graduating Student Leadership Bursary: The Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Graduating Student Leadership Bursary acknowledges the contributions of youth in establishing and maintaining safe, caring and inclusive schools and communities, and to promote student awareness of the Safe and Caring Schools Policy.

Specifically, the goal is to:

- Support the Safe and Caring Schools Policy to promote an environment of acceptance, belonging, and respect; and
- Encourages an inclusive and welcoming school culture, where all members of the school community feel accepted, are able to realize their potential, and contribute to the school community.

For the 2022-23 fiscal year, provincial government provided \$6,500 shared among 13 students through the Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Graduating Student Leadership Bursary².

Awards for Teaching Excellence: In recognition of primary, elementary or secondary teachers in all disciplines who have demonstrated exceptional innovation in instruction or compassion in teaching, the provincial government announced the first-ever recipients of the Premier's Award for Teaching Innovation and the Minister of Education's Award for Compassion in Teaching.

The Premier's Award for Teaching Innovation recognizes primary, elementary or secondary teachers in all disciplines who have demonstrated innovation in instruction

² A complete list of recipients of the Leadership Bursary can be found at https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2022/education/0622n05/

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and who have gone above and beyond to find innovative ways to deliver the curriculum resulting in greater educational outcomes for their students.

The 2022 Premier's Award recipients were:

- Christopher Butler, St. George's Elementary, Conception Bay South
- Megan Heath, École Rocher du Nord, St. John's
- Stephanie Hodder, C.C. Loughlin Elementary, Corner Brook
- Jeffrey Locke, Holy Spirit High, Conception Bay South
- Jim Locke, Mount Pearl Senior High, Mount Pearl
- Michelle Maracle, J.R. Smallwood Middle School, Wabush
- Whitney Pye, St. Mary's All Grade, Mary's Harbour
- Ashley Sheppard, C.C. Loughlin Elementary, Corner Brook

The Minister of Education's Award for Compassion in Teaching recognizes inspirational and compassionate teachers at the primary, elementary or secondary level who have gone above and beyond to support the social, emotional and mental health of their students, colleagues or school community as a whole.

The following were the 2022 Minister of Education's Award recipients:

- Lora Dawn Angnatok, Jens Havens Memorial Primary, Nain
- Nancy Boutin, École Boréale, Happy Valley-Goose Bay
- Mark Bradbury, Templeton Academy, Meadows
- Paula Bradbury, Corner Brook Regional High, Corner Brook
- Meghan Devereaux, St. Matthew's School, St. John's
- Stephanie Gillis, Holy Heart of Mary High School, St. John's
- Holly Healey, Holy Cross Elementary, Holyrood
- Bernetta Hickey-Rideout, St. Joseph's All Grade, Terrenceville
- Donna Howse Windsor, Elizabeth Park Elementary, Paradise

Dwayne Kilfoy, Donald C. Jamieson Academy, Burin³

K-6 Mathematics Bursary Program: The program aims to build capacity among K-6 teachers and enhance mathematics pedagogy skills in primary and elementary schools. The department introduced a bursary program to assist and encourage teacher participation in university-level courses to improve their mathematics content and pedagogy skills required for Grades K-6. The department is providing \$40,000 in funding annually for a K-6 Mathematics Bursary Program until 2024. Since 2018, more than \$280,000 has been invested in mathematics professional learning opportunities for educators, including \$74,250 in bursaries for 127 K-6 teachers. From April 1, 2022 until March 31, 2023, 27 bursaries were awarded for a total of \$16,750.

Inclusive Education Awards: Every year, the award is presented to a K-12 school in Newfoundland and Labrador that has shown exceptional spirit in creating a school that is welcoming and inclusive for students with an intellectual disability.

The recipient in 2022 was St. Matthew's Elementary in St. John's. St. Matthew's Elementary was recognized for providing effective support and accommodations to ensure equitable opportunities for students, allowing them to see and feel the encouragement of love, acceptance and inclusion within the school community.

Council of the Federation Literacy Award: The Council of the Federation Literacy Award celebrates the valuable contributions made by Canadians in the field of literacy, as well as adult learners who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to literacy. The award is presented each year to learners, educators, volunteers, community organizations, and businesses in each province and territory.

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³ The detail of recipients for both Premier and Minster's Awards can be found at https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2022/exec/0622n03/

Krista Stephens was the recipient of the 2022 Council of the Federation Literacy Award for Newfoundland and Labrador. After a 26 year gap, Krista Stephens made the courageous and life-changing decision to return to school in 2020. Krista demonstrated commitment, drive, determination and a positive attitude, excelling in her studies and receiving her high school equivalency diploma ahead of schedule. Krista is now completing a post-secondary program in Office Administration and Technology.

Teacher Allocation Review Committee: On December 21, 2021, the Minister of Education appointed a committee to review the current Teacher Allocation Model. The committee members included Dr. Marian Fushell, Dr. Ross Elliott, and Mr. David Brown. In the Terms of Reference, the committee was asked to review the current resources; consult with parents, students, teachers, and other stakeholders; consider innovative approaches to delivery of education services; recommend allocations of resources and class sizes for different schools; and recommend ways to meet unexpected or emerging needs.

On October 14, 2022, the Minister of Education released the report submitted by the Teacher Allocation Review Committee titled "Learning in a Time of Change." 4

Research Inspired Student Enrichment (RISE) Awards: The RISE Awards are given to Level II high school students who demonstrate academic excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The provincial government provided approximately \$175,000 for tuition, accommodations and a travel stipend for recipients to participate in enrichment programs in Massachusetts.

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⁴ The full report "Learning in a Time of Change." can be found at https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/files/Learning-in-a-Time-of-Change-Report-of-Teacher-Allocation-Review-Committee-2022.pdf

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Fifteen students from Newfoundland and Labrador were named recipients of the 2022 RISE Awards⁵. One successful recipient attended the research-related enrichment program at the Research Science Institute, located at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and another 14 recipients attended the Boston Leadership Institute, located in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Support for Early Learning and Child Care Sector: As part of the joint provincial and federal **Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan**, on January 1, 2023, Newfoundland and Labrador families started benefitting from \$10-a-day regulated child care, three years ahead of the national target. With \$10-a-day child care, families are now saving an estimated \$6,300 per year for each child in care.

A new Early Childhood Education (ECE) Wage Grid was developed to support regulated child care centres in offering accessible and quality child care by recognizing the valuable contribution ECEs make with the children of the province.

Highlights of the new ECE Wage Grid:

- A one-time payment was made directly to ECEs to cover the period from January 1 to March 31, 2023.
- Effective April 1, 2023, the base rate pay for an ECE II with a two-year diploma is
 \$25.00 an hour. This is the starting rate for a new graduate.
- ECEs who continue to further their education and are awarded a higher certification level will be placed at Step One of their new level.
- Effective January 1, 2023, each step on the wage grid lasts 12 months.
- There is a 10 per cent adjustment for administrator positions.

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⁵ A complete list of recipients of RISE Awards can be found at https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2022/education/0302n01/

- Labrador Allowance is available for ECEs working in licensed child care centres in the Labrador region.
- Legacy wage rates are in place for staff whose previous earnings exceeded the wage scale ⁶.

Early Learning and Child Care Advisory Committee: In 2022-23, an Early Learning and Child Care Advisory Committee was created by March 31, 2023. Members of the advisory committee will contribute to the development and implementation of the provincial Early Learning Action Plan 2023-2026. The committee will provide advice to the Minister of Education respecting early learning and child care, programs and services, and funding and activities that support early learning and child care and ensure a high quality and inclusive system.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Bursary Programs: In 2022-23, multiple enhancements were made to three ECE bursary programs⁷, and these ECE bursaries are provided to the early childhood educators who qualify.

The completed bursary enhancements for ECEs including:

- Trainee Bursary: This bursary provides educators looking to upgrade to Level I certification (ECE Certificate) a \$250 reimbursement for each course successfully completed. It was enhanced by removing a cap that restricted the number of eligible courses to two per fiscal year.
- On-Campus Field Placement Bursary: This bursary increased from \$1,200 to \$2,500 for the successful completion of a mandatory field placement at a College campus.

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⁶ Full details on the news regarding wage grid for early childhood educators can be found at https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2023/education/0328n01/

⁷ Details on the bursary programs: https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/childcare/childcareresources/

ECE Graduate Bursary: This initiative provides graduates of the ECE Diploma \$7,500 if they agree to a three-year return to service in regulated child care in the province. This is up from \$5,000 for a two-year return in service.

Partnerships

Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training to Promote Skills Development and Career Planning in School, Universities and Community Colleges: The Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training has launched a website featuring a number of resources for students, promoting skill development and application for a successful transition into the job market. Students in schools, universities, community colleges, and families in Atlantic Canada have access to more resources to promote skills development and how these skills can facilitate a successful transition into the job market. These resources can be found at https://careersatlanticcanada.ca/.

The new website is an expansion of the one launched by the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training in 2021. This updated website will support youth in this region with information and resources that can help them understand the importance and role of Skills for Success in planning their future. In addition, the website will serve to operationalize the Skills for Success framework specific to Atlantic Canada and will provide strategies on how Atlantic Canadians can achieve success in many opportunities in their home province.

The resources and information contained in the website will:

- help youth understand skills and job requirements needed for entry into the workforce;
- prepare youth for the development of skills and competencies that can be applied and enhanced in the workplace;
- enable youth to explore and reflect on career options, information and opportunities in Atlantic Canada;

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- help youth make informed decisions about careers through increased awareness
 of skills in demand and their transferability as well as careers in demand in the
 Atlantic provinces;
- help provide more qualified and motivated workers to the labour force, assisting businesses become more competitive and successful; and
- raise awareness of the importance of positive mental health and well-being in their personal lives and the workplace ⁷.

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⁷ Full details on the news regarding this provincial initiative can be found at https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2022/education/1025n01/

Report on Performance

Throughout the 2022-23 reporting period, the Department of Education made significant efforts to conclude the final year of the 2020-23 strategic plan by implementing initiatives aimed at achieving its performance indicators.

Issue One: Early Learning and Child Care

The Department of Education is responsible for supporting children's learning from early years programming through to school leaving. The department is committed to enhancing early learning and child care throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. The department took significant steps to improve children's early learning and development, support parental/caregiver involvement, provide a quality and affordable regulated child care, and support a smooth transition into the K-12 education system.

In the 2022-23 reporting period, the department achieved significant milestones, including the continued work towards implementing the Pre-Kindergarten pilot program, ongoing legislative review of the **Child Care Act** and Regulations, introduction of the new ECE wage grid, and the initiation of the province-wide \$10-a-day regulated child care. These notable achievements align with the government's Strategic Directions for better living and a bright future.

Goal Statement

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Education will have enhanced provincial early learning opportunities and child care programs and services for children.

Objective 2022-2023

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Education will have further implemented programs and services in support of provincial early childhood learning and child care.

Discussion of Results

Continued a legislative review of the Child Care Act and Regulations

Legislative amendments were implemented in August 2022 to add pre-kindergarten regulations. These regulatory changes enabled the Pre-Kindergarten pilot sites to be licensed. A full legislative review of the **Child Care Act** and regulations has commenced and is still in progress. Phase I of the public consultations was completed in 2022, and the Phase II of the public consultations will occur throughout the province in 2023. The results of the consultations will be analyzed to inform further legislative amendments.

Continued initiatives to improve the affordability, quality and inclusivity of early learning and child care programming

The goal to improve affordability was achieved with the implementation of \$10-a-day regulated child care on January 1, 2023. The department has continued pursuing initiatives to enhance and support the early learning and child care (ELCC) programs and ensure a high-quality and inclusive system.

In 2022-23, notable efforts include:

- An ELCC Minister's Advisory Committee was established. This committee has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the provincial Early Learning Action Plan 2023-2026.
- The Early Childhood Learning Framework has been embedded in the Child Care Regulations.
- Approximately 700 additional ECE seats have been made available at local postsecondary institutions (i.e., College of the North Atlantic, Keyin College and Academy Canada).
- A new ECE wage grid was implemented to attract and retain early childhood educators in the province.

Moreover, the department conducted a one-time needs assessment to identify barriers to inclusion. Over 75 staff in regulated services have received additional training to

support children with enhanced needs. An infrastructure grant will be developed to further support ELCC services in the next fiscal year.

Furthermore, the department is continuing consultations on co-designed efforts to develop a plan to ensure Indigenous children have access to affordable, high-quality, and culturally responsive ELCC services.

Continued work toward implementing the Pre-Kindergarten pilot

The department introduced a new Pre-Kindergarten Program in the fall 2022, and this program is targeted to be fully implemented by 2025-26. For the pilot of the pre-kindergarten early learning program, there were 16 of 34 pilot sites open and operational in 2022-23. The first Phase of the pilot will result in approximately 600 new regulated child care spaces in communities throughout the province.

2020-23 Goal Reporting

Enhanced early learning opportunities

The department has continued to provide steadfast support for Family Resources Centres (FRCs), offering a variety of free community-based activities and resources for children and families. These FRCs emphasize early childhood learning and development along with essential parenting support. Currently, there are 32 hubs with 120 satellites across the region. These FRCs provide a wide range of programming, including family support, parent education, interactive parent and child programs, dropin playgroups, toy lending libraries, and early learning initiatives like Parent-Mother Goose and Healthy Baby Clubs.

During the 2020-23 planning period, the department continued to provide financial support for early learning initiatives, such as Parent-Mother Goose and Roots of Empathy. It also includes the provision of parent resource kits, which are distributed by public health. Through consultations with FRCs, the department is exploring the possibility of modifying the funding model in the next fiscal year.

Furthermore, the department has been dedicatedly working on implementing and improving the KinderStart Program, and it will continue to review the program materials for the parent resource kits and the KinderStart program.

Enhanced child care programs and services

Over the past three years, the department has successfully negotiated and signed a Canada-Wide Newfoundland and Labrador Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. As a result, the Child Care Capacity Initiative for family homes and the Early Learning and Child Care Quality Enhancement Program were launched.

Throughout the 2020-23 planning cycle, notable efforts are made toward achieving the objectives of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement:

<u>Affordability</u>

- Starting from January 1, 2022, new Child Care Subsidy policies were implemented, leading to the removal of parental contributions and adjustments in the income thresholds.
- Since January 1, 2023, the cost of regulated child care has reduced to \$10-a-day,
 three years ahead of the Canada-wide target.

Quality

- The Child Care Act has been amended to mandate that all child care services, including pre-kindergarten programs, adhere to the provincial Early Learning Framework.
- A new wage grid for ECEs was introduced on January 1, 2023, and many ECEs received a wage increase.
- Expansion of the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Quality Enhancement Program.

Space Creation/Access

- Expanded existing funding under the Child Care Capacity Grant from \$5,000 to
 \$7,000 per created space for not-for-profit groups and municipalities.
- Expanded existing funding under the Family Child Care Capacity Grant from the current limit of \$7,500 to up to \$15,000 with an escalating service commitment.
- Provided additional funding to Family and Child Care Connections to increase the number of home-based operations in the Avalon and Western regions and to expand their family child care agency into Labrador and Central Newfoundland.

Municipalities

 A liaison was hired in 2021 to build relationships with municipalities and encouraged 17 municipalities to start the Capacity Initiative to investigate the need for child care in their town.

Promotional campaigns

- Government-led promotional campaign started in April 2022.
 - Ongoing marketing and promotion campaigns on television, online, on billboards, in movie theatres and in transit stations and vehicles, and that promotion will continue.
- First Government/College Road Show completed in June 2022 went across the province and garnered attention for the programs.

Prioritization of Not-for-Profit Child Care Centre

 A Consultant was hired to focus on Not-for-Profit Child Care Centre expansion in 2022 and worked with Community Sector Council to develop capacity in the community for Not-for-Profit awareness and development.

Family Home Child Care

 A Provincial Consultant was hired to focus on Family Home Child Care expansion in 2022.

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These child care programs and services have had a positive impact on families and communities and have led to a dramatic increase in access to quality, affordable child care programs for young children and their families across the province.

Issue Summary

In the 2020-23 strategic planning period, the dedicated employees of the department worked diligently to extend comprehensive support to child care licensees and early childhood educators. Their efforts resulted in successful adaptations to evolving family needs through the implementation of the Pre-Kindergarten pilot program, launch of the Early Learning and Child Care Quality Enhancement Program, introduction of the new ECE wage grid, initiation of the province-wide \$10-a-day regulated child care initiative, and continuous legislative reviews of the **Child Care Act** and Regulations. These accomplishments will lead to significant improvements in the accessibility, affordability, quality, and inclusivity of programs in related areas.

Issue Two: K-12 Education

The Department of Education is committed to ensuring that all children in Newfoundland and Labrador have access to a safe, inclusive and healthy school environment and an education system responsive to students' strengths and needs. Improvements in the programs and services offered in the provincial K-12 system support the learning needs of students, and help prepare them for future educational and career opportunities, as well as participation in their communities and society.

In the 2022-23 reporting period, the Department of Education has successfully implemented three phases of recommendations in the **Education Action Plan**, continued implementation of the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Program, as well as the modernization of teaching and learning through the integration of Information and Communication Technology. These strategic initiatives have led to the development of a more inclusive school environment responsive to the diverse strengths and needs of our students. Moreover, these achievements align with the government's Strategic Directions for a better economy and a bright future.

Goal Statement

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Education will have enhanced the provincial K-12 education system.

Objective 2022-2023

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Education will have identified and implemented further enhancements in the K-12 education system.

Discussion of Results

Continued implementation of remaining recommendations in the Education Action Plan

In 2022-23, key actions undertaken to implement the remaining recommendations in the **Education Action Plan** included:

Responsive Teaching and Learning (RTL)

- Continued professional learning on the practice of RTL with a focus on special education. Teachers strive to support inclusive education through the practice of RTL. Responsive teaching and learning involves tailoring instructional approaches to accommodate the diverse needs of students.
- By analyzing teaching and learning data, reflecting on student progress, and
 evaluating their practices, teachers develop a plan to enhance both their teaching
 methods and student outcomes. This process is further bolstered by five educational
 frameworks to support teachers, one of which is special education. These
 frameworks:
 - embrace the diverse nature of school communities,
 - o recognize that students learn in different ways, and
 - seek to support learners to achieve the most they possibly can.
- In January and February 2023, a series of two-day meetings for all district-based directors of schools, program specialists, and itinerant teachers supported the continued implementation of the Responsive Teaching and Learning Policy in K-6 and the practice of RTL in 7-12.
- A Ministerial Day will be scheduled to support the continued professional learning for all school-based educators on the Responsive Teaching and Learning Policy in K-6 and the practice of RTL in 7-12. In the 2023-24 school year, further professional learning specific to lead assessors and instructional resource teachers will occur.

Language Arts Curriculum

- A Committee, consisting of program specialists at the department, continued developing revisions to the language arts curriculum, to ensure that it sets clear expectations to inform teaching and learning.
- Progressions for K-6 outline the sequence of skills in a particular area that students
 can be expected to develop at each grade level. Program specialists monitor the
 implementation of the language arts curriculum through observation and ongoing
 discussion of students' growth and learning as a means to provide clarity within
 language arts curriculum documents.
- In 2022-23, the draft versions of K-6 progression documents were piloted in five schools, and draft versions of the 7-12 progressions have been completed. Teacher working groups are continuing to work towards bringing these draft versions of the progressions to completion in a timely manner.

Special Education Case Management System (SECM)

- SECM is a customized electronic information system that manages student data and information for educators.
- SECM is a framework for managing the workflow of information related to the work
 of teaching and learning teams, service delivery teams and program planning teams.
- The Responsive Teaching and Learning Database is currently live in four test schools. Implementation plans are underway for commencement in all K-12 schools in the 2023-24 school year.

Newfoundland and Labrador Standards of Practice for Mathematics Teaching (NLSPMT)

 The NLSPMT provides teachers and instructional leaders with a clear and concise resource with which to engage in personal reflection on their current practices; recognize and affirm the excellent teaching and learning already occurring; identify and address professional learning needs; and inform the collaborative work of professional learning communities. • The NLSPMT was developed in 2020-21, which includes a professional learning plan named Supporting Teachers/Educators in Lifelong Learning and Reflection (STELLAR). In the 2022-23 school year, the department initiated the implementation of STELLAR along with other new professional learning initiatives. However, the full implementation of NLSPMT is scheduled to commence in September 2023.

Human Resources

The primary human resources support within the K-12 education system for 2022-23 included:

- \$25 million to maintain school-based reading specialists, teaching and learning assistants, teacher librarians and add English-as-a-second-language teachers through the Education Action Plan.
- \$11.6 million increase in the teaching services budget, including \$3.1 million to meet demands associated with the increase in projected enrollment, as well as funding for substitute teachers and guidance counsellors.

Implemented the Multicultural Education Framework

The Multicultural Education Framework is a commitment to support the diverse educational needs of newcomer students and all students with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and ensure that a multicultural perspective informs the education of all students. The Multicultural Education Framework was completed but was not implemented in 2021-22 due to continued disruptions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Implementation of this Framework commenced in 2022-23.

Indigenous Education Framework

The Indigenous Education Framework was released in 2022-23. This Framework supports the learning of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students by exploring the histories, traditions, cultures, worldviews, and contemporary lifestyles of Indigenous peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada. Students gain knowledge and develop the values and critical thinking, communication, analytical, and inquiry skills that will enable them better to understand the past and present realities of Indigenous

peoples. Additionally, exploration of topics such as self-determination, self-government, and language and cultural reclamation allows students to understand and work towards the post-colonial future envisioned by Indigenous peoples.

Provincial Reading and Mathematics Assessment

Guided by the **Education Action Plan**, a new Provincial Reading and Mathematics Assessment (PRMA) was implemented in May 2022. It is administered each spring to students in grades three, six and nine and will measure student knowledge in mathematics or reading at a particular point in time. The subject area assessed alternates between reading and mathematics each year, with the first assessment focused on reading. The PRMA data will be monitored and analyzed by the department to identify areas needing improvement in student learning. This will help inform policy development and help educators recognize areas of strength as well as barriers that may exist to students reaching their full potential. This data will be used to develop strategies and initiatives to support and further enhance student learning.

Continued implementation of Social Emotional Learning program

During 2022-23, the implementation of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) continued in key areas:

Policy Development

- A Safe and Caring Schools Advisory Committee was established. The implementation of a revised Safe and Caring Schools Policy is scheduled for the 2024-25 school year.
- A foundation document for SEL has been completed and submitted for authorization.
 This document outlines the nature of the program area, describes the underlying philosophy, and defines the scope of the curriculum concerning SEL in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- SEL is also embedded in the new Health Foundation document, as SEL outcomes are being embedded in the renewal of the Health curriculum. This document is

- scheduled for completion in September 2024 and will be reflected throughout all other areas of the health curriculum.
- A provincial set of Key Competencies has been developed and adopted, aligning with CASEL's SEL framework. The Key Competencies include self-awareness and self-management competency.
- The Responsive Teaching and Learning Policy (K-6) incorporates SEL as a pillar alongside Literacy and Numeracy.

Curriculum Implementation/Development

- Renewed Health curriculum, inclusive of SEL, has been implemented in the following grades: Health Kindergarten (2021), Health 1 (2021), Health 2 (2022), and Health 3 (2022).
- Renewed Health curriculum, inclusive of SEL, for Health 4-9 is in development with pilots scheduled to begin in the 2023-24 school year.
- The incorporation of SEL references in other curriculum renewals has commenced.

<u>Curriculum Resources</u>

- K-3 classrooms have received Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)
 SEL resources in both English and French to support the implementation of SEL outcomes from the renewed Health curriculum.
- Calls for SEL resources to support renewed Health Grade 4-9 curriculum have been issued.

Services

 The creation of draft social-emotional/behavioural support plan guidelines is underway. The implementation of the guidelines is scheduled for the 2023-24 school year.

Continued modernization of teaching and learning through integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The department collaborated with Brilliant Labs, a not-for-profit community of entrepreneurs, non-profits, municipalities, and economic development agencies that aims to foster creativity, innovation, and an entrepreneurial spirit through coding and the development of digital competencies for youth in Atlantic Canada. The purpose of the collaboration is to help integrate technology into the K-12 system by providing educational technologies and teacher professional learning to K-12 schools in Newfoundland and Labrador, engaging students with interface equipment, sensors, programming languages and 3D printing.

In 2022-23:

- 64,718 youth experiences were provided in the province, which included a wide range of activities (e.g., workshops, summer camps, full classes entered by teachers who do classroom projects on the web portal, and youth taking advantage of the lending library and stock materials for projects);
- 3,153 teacher support experiences were provided, which included teacher
 participation in direct professional learning sessions; teachers using the project
 portal; and single support calls, collaborating with teachers on projects or
 makerspace proposals;
- 26 school Makerspaces were created and supported. Makerspaces are defined as a collaborative, community-based workspaces stocked with tools and materials for people to experiment and create new things;
- 387 school support visits helped teachers and students learn digital skills and competencies; and,
- Over 65 Innovative student projects were supported.

As of the 2022-23 school year, Brilliant Labs had a presence in 100 percent of public schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. Notable growth in Brilliant Labs operations in 2022-23 includes:

- The establishment of a community maker space in central Newfoundland, which supports both in-school and after-school programming. This includes a full-time facilitator to support technology integration in the area.
- Adding a French specialist to the program staff tasked with supporting technology integration in French immersion and French first-language classes.

In the Technology Education curriculum, the department piloted a new Grade 7 Communication Technology module in 2022-23. The department continued to support the expansion of Computer Science 1204 and purchased new resources to meet the demand for the course in 2022-23.

To cultivate homegrown talent and the growth of a diverse workforce in the technology and innovation industry, the department continued its commitment to the Technology Career Pathway (TCP) program. The collaboration between the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), NLESD, and the department offers academic opportunities and other incentives to support interested students to transition into careers in the Technology and Innovation Industry more easily. Approximately 200 students in 13 schools are engaged in the TCP program.

Commenced integration of NLESD with the Department of Education

The goals of integration are to improve educational outcomes by aligning program and curriculum development to help students excel in areas of critical thinking, as well as improve service delivery and operational efficiency. The transition is highly complex, with many dedicated and knowledgeable officials from within government and NLESD working together to support a successful integration.

Since integration was announced in 2021, good progress has been made. In 2022-23:

- Legislation was updated to reconfigure senior leadership at the district, as well as change the Director of Education title to Superintendent, to help facilitate the integration process.
- Legislation also allowed the creation of the Provincial Advisory Council on Education. This will provide parents and the community with a stronger voice on educational matters.
- An Integration Team of staff from key provincial government departments and leadership staff from within the NLESD was created.
- Six working groups were established to analyze current operations at the district and gain an understanding of how those processes can best integrate within government. The working groups mirrored the operational structure of the NLESD Academic (Programs), Facilities and Student Transportation, Information Technology, Finance, Human Resources, and Policy and Legislation. Leaders from the NLESD and government are looking at such things as asset management, computer system integration, busing, maintenance procedures, corporate services, administration and policy development, as well as ensuring all staff are able to be successful in their jobs following integration.
- Additional legislative changes will be coming in fall 2023 to finalize the integration process.
- Various NLESD staff transitions will take place through the integration in 2023-24:
 - Procurement staff will move to the Public Procurement Agency;
 - o Internal auditors will move to the Office of the Comptroller General;
 - Facilities and Student Transportation staff will move to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure;
 - Student Services and Programs staff will move to the department under the K-12 Education Branch;
 - Teaching professionals, Teaching and Learning Assistants, and Student Assistants will move to the new Public Schools Branch within the department;
 and

 All other NLESD employees, including Directors of Schools and those in communications, administrative support, human resources, finance, and information technology, will move to the new Public Schools Branch under the department, led by the Superintendent of Schools.

2020-23 Goal Reporting

Enhanced educational programs and services

During the 2020-23 planning period, the department continued to enhance the existing programs and services within the K-12 education system. The primary focus was on creating a safe and inclusive school environment that allows students to learn, grow, and succeed.

Various initiatives were implemented to achieve the goal of enhancing educational programs and services, which are listed below:

2020-21:

- Most of the long-term recommendations in the Education Action Plan were either completed or substantially underway.
- The Multicultural Education Framework was developed.
- Health Kindergarten and Health Grade 1, which have outcomes embedded within the curricula, were piloted in each of the selected NLESD schools.
- Two new junior high technology modules in the Technology Education curriculum were piloted, Computer Science 8 and Communications 7.
- \$20 million was invested for the purchase of laptops for all teachers, and
 Chromebooks for all junior high and high school students across the K-12 education system.

2021-22:

- The remaining recommendations in the **Education Action Plan** were implemented.
- Health Kindergarten and Health Grade 1 curriculum have received Promoting
 Alternative Thinking Strategies SEL resources in both English and French. Also,
 Health curriculum for Grades 2 and 3 were underway for implementation.
- A new Computer Science module in Grade 8 was implemented to encourage students use their new coding skills to develop technological solutions to real world problems.

2022-23:

- The Indigenous Education Framework was released to support the learning of Indigenous peoples for Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students.
- Implementation of Multicultural Education Framework was commenced to support the diverse educational needs of newcomer students and all students.
- The standards in NLSPMT were created, and implementation of standards and new professional learning initiatives will commence in September 2023.
- New curriculum has been implemented in Career Education, Health, Music, Science, Social Studies, and Visual Arts. Most program areas have curriculum under development and new implementations in the 2023-24 school year are planned for Communications Technology 7, Core French 4, Français 7, Français 8, LEARN 2 Social Studies, and Social Studies K.
- Beyond strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, a provincial set of Key
 Competencies have been developed, which include: Citizenship and Sustainability;
 Collaboration; Communication; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Innovation,
 Creativity, and Entrepreneurship; and Self-Awareness and Self-Management.

Enhanced curricula

During the 2020-23 planning period, new curricula have been implemented in Career Education, Health, Music, Science, Social Studies, and Visual Arts. Most program areas have curriculum development underway, with plans for new implementations in the

2023-24 school year for Communications Technology 7, Core French 4, Français 7, Français 8, LEARN 2 Social Studies, and Social Studies K.

Key Competencies

In addition to building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, a provincial set of Key Competencies has been developed. These Key Competencies encompass Citizenship and Sustainability, Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Innovation, Creativity, Entrepreneurship, and Self-Awareness and Self-Management. Moving forward, curriculum development will align with and foster these key competencies.

Digital Curriculum Port

A comprehensive digital curriculum port is currently in development, poised to revolutionize how teachers engage with curriculum documents. This portal will provide educators with access to curriculum materials, professional learning resources, and interactive content. It will be fully digital, hyperlinked, and searchable. This initiative aims to present curriculum content in an interactive and user-friendly manner. Existing printed curriculum documents will be transformed into an enlightened digital curriculum portal, changing the way teachers perceive and interact with curriculum materials. The curriculum is presently being reorganized into strands, targets, and indicators for seamless integration into the Curriculum Portal.

Issue Summary

During the 2020-23 strategic planning period, the department demonstrated remarkable dedication in addressing the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and creating pathways for student success within the K-12 education system. Collaborating with multiple stakeholders, the department successfully implemented the three-phase recommendations from the **Education Action Plan**, leading to a more inclusive and responsive learning environment for both students and school staff.

Issue Three: Post-Secondary Education

The Department of Education is committed to collaborating with institutions, businesses, and the federal government in supporting post-secondary education to build a brighter future and a more robust economic foundation for the province. Accordingly, the department provides support for post-secondary education that involves direct support to Memorial University (MUN), College of the North Atlantic (CNA), and the regulation and monitoring of private training institutions. In addition, the department also has the responsibility of assisting students through the administration of the Newfoundland and Labrador Student Financial Assistance Program.

In 2022-23, the department continued addressing the findings and recommendations from reviews of the public post-secondary education system to inform future amendments to the **Memorial University Act**, continued support to enhance services provided by the provincial student aid program, and commenced implementing the year-four initiatives in the **Adult Literacy Action Plan**. These accomplishments align with the government's Strategic Directions for a better economy and a bright future.

Goal Statement

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Education will have worked to advance the responsiveness of post-secondary education.

2022-23 Objective

By March 31, 2023, the Department of Education will have further implemented initiatives to improve the responsiveness of post-secondary education.

Discussion of Results

Continued addressing findings and recommendations from reviews of the public post-secondary education system

The department received the Public Post-Secondary Education Review (PPSER) report in April 2021, and has been assessing the findings of the review as priorities emerge in 2022-23. Potential amendments to the **College Act, 1996** are under review with an initial focus on changes designed to update the legislation. Amendments to the **Memorial University Act** are also under review, again with an initial focus on changes to modernize the legislation.

Moreover, in response to the tuition fee increase at Memorial University in 2021, the department introduced a new Tuition Relief Grant in the 2022-23 academic year for all eligible student aid recipients to address rising overall costs. This grant is needs-based and offers eligible students non-repayable assistance of up to \$3,450 per academic year, in addition to existing grants and loans. This is a direct step in aligning the student financial aid policy with tuition changes to ensure equitable access to post-secondary education. Notably, provincial loans continue to be completely forgivable for eligible students upon graduation through the Debt Reduction Grant Program.

Government has also continued to work with the university toward the introduction of cost-effective green technologies in ongoing support for an electrification project for the university. Through the installation of electrically powered boilers, the university is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 30,000 tons annually.

Continued work toward amending the Memorial University Act

Departmental officials met with representatives from Memorial University and received submissions from the University and the Memorial University Faculty Association regarding proposed amendments to the **Memorial University Act**. During the 2022-23 reporting period, the **Memorial University Act** was amended to allow for faculty representation on the Board of Regents, addressing a priority identified by both the Board and faculty representative groups.

In November of 2021, the Government introduced amendments to the **Auditor General Act** and the **Memorial University Act**, granting the Auditor General unfettered access to the University. The Government emphasized that, given the significant taxpayer investment in subsidizing the university, an unbiased overview of the university's fund allocation is critical before considering changes that would grant the university greater autonomy. Further amendments to the Act have been deferred in 2022-23 until the ongoing Auditor General review of the university is completed. This review will help identify priorities for amendments that will demonstrate a balance of autonomy and accountability.

Commenced year-four initiatives in the Adult Literacy Action Plan

The department continued implementing the **Adult Literacy Action Plan** originally published in 2019, supported by a \$60 million investment. This Action Plan identifies 30 actions that government and its partners will take to support adult literacy in the province.

During the 2022-23 reporting period, the department has commenced Year Four initiatives in the **Adult Literacy Action Plan** by implementing various targeted actions and strategies aimed at addressing the specific goals outlined in the plan. These initiatives were accomplished to make significant progress in improving adult literacy outcomes.

Furthermore, the department successfully initiated multiple pilot projects to assess the potential impact of new initiatives, such as a cultural literacy program called 'Learning at the Museum' at The Rooms. Additional support services for adults with barriers to literacy were introduced through the Learning Disabilities Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries. Additionally, foundational literacy programs were expanded in Gander, Corner Brook, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay, along with the establishment of the literacy program at the Gathering Place.

2020-23 Goal Reporting

Worked to ensure provincial post-secondary education is effective and sustainable

Over the past three years, the department has diligently worked towards ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of provincial post-secondary education.

Student Financial Assistance Initiatives

During the 2020-23 planning period, the department significantly improved the student financial assistance services provided by the provincial student aid programs. These enhancements included:

- Enhanced online services for student aid applicants through modernizing the online application to be more user-friendly and mobile-friendly.
- Increased the number of system-generated notifications, changed from paper-based to electronic form, and deposited them into the students' online accounts.
- Implemented a new Tuition Relief Grant for Memorial University students in response to the increase in tuition at the university. This increased weekly loan limits for all eligible student aid recipients to address rising overall costs.

Other Post-Secondary Education-related Initiatives

Throughout 2020-23, the department sustained its collaboration with post-secondary education partners, striving to maintain an effective and sustainable post-secondary education system. The initiatives include:

- Ensuring responsiveness to emerging priority sectors such as wind energy, green hydrogen, green economy, technology sector, and early childhood education.
- Establishing partnerships to address learning impacts and overcome the challenges for the local post-secondary institutions and their students due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Identifying priorities to improve public and private post-secondary training.

Implemented a new approach to adult literacy

The department continuously endeavored to offer programs and services designed to enhance adult literacy. This initiative aims to empower adult Newfoundlanders and Labradorians with essential literacy skills, enabling them to lead healthier, more productive lives and fostering their full participation in the province's economy.

Over the past three years, the department has actively supported adult literacy growth in the province. The department has reviewed program delivery models for provincial adult literacy to improve coordination, collaboration, and efficient resource sharing across multiple stakeholders. In 2020-23, a renewed focus on developing suitable and accessible funding mechanisms, delivery strategies, learning models, a professional development framework, and a statistical/research framework has been explored. Additionally, the department fostered strong collaborations with various industry associations and community agencies to develop sector-based approaches for enhancing essential skills.

In this planning cycle, through these combined efforts, the department has been working towards creating a more literate and skilled adult population, contributing to the overall development and prosperity of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Issue Summary

Throughout the 2020-23 strategic planning period, the department continued implementing and enhancing various student financial assistance programs, such as the Debt Reduction Grant Program, to support the delivery of post-secondary education through MUN, CNA, and private training institutions. Furthermore, the department made continuous efforts to strengthen the adult literacy system, ensuring it caters to diverse learning groups. This resulted in empowering adults to acquire essential literacy skills, enabling them to lead vibrant, productive lives and actively contribute to the provincial economy. To achieve this, the department continued implementing the **Adult Literacy Action Plan** and focused on suitable and accessible adult literacy initiatives.

Financial Information

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RELATED REVENUE (UNAUDITED) SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023^{1, 2}

Area	Estimates				
Alea	Actual (\$)	Amended (\$)	Original (\$)		
Executive Services (13.1.1.01 - 13.1.2.01)					
Executive Services (13.1.1.01 & 13.1.2.01)	\$1,455,136	\$1,484,700	\$1,200,700		
Total	\$1,455,136	\$1,484,700	\$1,200,700		
Corporate Services (13.2.1.01 - 13.2.1.03)					
General Administration (13.2.1.01 – 13.2.1.03)	\$3,658,772	\$3,746,800	\$3,796,900		
Total	\$3,658,772	\$3,746,800	\$3,796,900		
Early Childhood Development (13.3.5.01)					
Child and Family Development (13.3.5.01)	\$49,673,714	\$37,706,400	\$75,408,300		
Total	\$49,673,714	\$37,706,400	\$75,408,300		
Kindergarten to Grade 12 Educat	tion (13.3.1.01 - 13.3.6	6.01 excluding 13.3.5.	.01)		
Financial Assistance (13.3.1.01 – 13.3.1.04)	\$802,215,354	\$804,699,400	\$780,040,200		
Program Development (13.3.2.01 – 13.3.2.02)	\$6,422,475	\$6,238,200	\$3,245,700		
Student Support Services (13.3.3.01 – 13.3.3.02)	\$2,119,648	\$2,234,800	\$2,229,200		
Educational Programs (13.3.4.01)	\$2,537,973	\$2,523,600	\$2,399,500		
Provincial Information and Library Resources	\$11,692,200	\$11,692,200	\$11,610,200		
Board (13.3.6.01)					
Total	\$824,987,650	\$827,388,200	\$799,524,800		
Post-Secondary Education (13.4.1.01 - 13.4.4.02)					
Literacy and Institutional Services (13.4.1.01)	\$3,704,975	\$4,636,800	\$5,119,600		
Atlantic Veterinary College (13.4.2.01)	\$1,263,936	\$1,264,000	\$1,242,600		
Memorial University (13.4.3.01)	\$313,467,773	\$316,904,100	\$306,530,600		
College of the North Atlantic (13.4.4.01)	\$67,511,000	\$67,511,000	\$67,511,000		
Student Financial Services (13.4.4.01 and	\$10,825,534	\$8,356,600	\$7,954,000		
13.4.4.02)					
Total	\$396,773,218	\$398,672,500	\$388,357,800		
Total Department	\$1,276,548,490	\$1,268,998,600	\$1,268,288,500		

^{1.} Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are based on public information provided in the Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the Year Ended March 31, 2023.

^{2.} Audited financial statements are a requirement at the government level and are made public through the Public Accounts process. The Department of Education is not required to provide an audited financial statement.

