



**Family Communication**  
**Embedded Collaborative Learning Time**  
**Newcombville Elementary School**

During the past several years, our schools have adopted the Embedded Collaborative Learning Time model to enhance professional learning for teachers. There is overwhelming evidence that student learning and student engagement increase when teachers have opportunities to work together as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This year's evaluation of the collaborative learning teams from all schools indicates that teachers are engaged in valuable learning and are adjusting their teaching practices to improve student engagement and achievement. Teacher Survey results are available at <http://www.srsb.ca/family-information/>.

What will "embedded collaborative learning time" look like?

- ✓ To support the early dismissal dates, instructional time will be extended by an average of seven to 10 minutes each day for the entire school year.
- ✓ On 14 designated days of the school year, the school day will be reduced by 90 instructional minutes for staff to collaborate and engage in professional learning.
- ✓ The added daily instructional time exceeds the time given to the 14 ninety-minute early dismissals spread over the school year on various afternoons (schedule below).

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has been a leader in working with the following partners to review research and develop a framework for moving forward with collaborative learning time:

- ✓ Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU)
- ✓ Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA)
- ✓ University Schools of Education
- ✓ Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium (NSELC)
- ✓ Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA)

Benefits to students and their families include:

- ✓ Decrease in the number of times teachers will be away from their students for professional development
- ✓ Enhanced examination of student work so supports are in place sooner
- ✓ Continued support for inquiry-based learning and student engagement
- ✓ Increased student achievement in all areas, including math and literacy
- ✓ Improved assessment practices
- ✓ Issues, such as cyber bullying and the development of social emotional competencies of students, are more effectively addressed
- ✓ A classroom environment that allows students to work from their preferred learning styles and talents

**Evidence-based Nova Scotia documents that support this direction include:**

- ✓ Report and Recommendations of the Education Professional Development Committee (EPDC) – 2009

- ✓ Department of Education Response to the above Report – 2009
- ✓ Report of the Professional Learning Communities Study Committee – 2011
- ✓ Steps to Effective and Sustainable Public Education in NS – 2011

Principals and Board staff consulted with school staffs and their SACs to develop a modified schedule that occurred in all SSRSB schools during the past three school years. That same model will be followed this school year.

- ✓ The instructional time has been lengthened by an average of 10 minutes, through extending and/or reorganizing the school day. Daily instruction in Nova Scotia must be at least 240 minutes per day, including recess, for students in grades primary to 2; 300 in grades 3 to 6, including recess; and 300 in grades 7 to 12, not including recess. All P-12 schools have exceeded the minimum of 300 instructional minutes per day by an average of 10 minutes.
- ✓ On designated days throughout the school year (schedule below), students will be dismissed early. Staff will remain at school for collaborative learning time after the students leave. This structured time will be used to examine student achievement data and to plan for specific strategies to improve student learning and student engagement.

We appreciate your support as we continue to find creative ways to encourage professional learning for our teachers and to improve on student achievement and engagement. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the principal.

**L. Allan Turner**  
**Principal**  
**Newcombsville Elementary School**

### **Early Dismissal/Embedded Collaborative Learning Time Schedule 2017-2018 School Year**

The schedule for early dismissals for embedded collaborative learning time for the 2017-2018 school year is as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wednesday, September 27</li> <li>2. Wednesday, October 18</li> <li>3. Wednesday, November 1</li> <li>4. Wednesday, November 22</li> <li>5. Wednesday, December 6</li> <li>6. Wednesday, January 10</li> <li>7. Wednesday, January 24</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Wednesday, February 7</li> <li>9. Wednesday, February 21</li> <li>10. Wednesday, March 7</li> <li>11. Wednesday, April 11</li> <li>12. Wednesday, April 25</li> <li>13. Wednesday, May 9</li> <li>14. Wednesday, May 30</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

<b>School</b>	<b>Start Times 2017-2018</b>	<b>End Times 2017-2018</b>	<b>Dismissal Time For CLT Days</b>
<b>NES</b>	<b>8:20</b>	<b>2:12</b>	<b>12:42</b>