Glossary of Terms

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Age calculations Unless otherwise cited, age is as of December 31 of the reporting year. For students, the age is truncated (e.g. 5.4 becomes 5). For teachers, the age is not truncated (e.g., for 1989, -- the school year 1989-90; a teacher born on June 2, 1961 would be 28.6 years old. This figure is then rounded to the nearest integer, in this case, 29. However, when computing median age and average age, no rounding is done).

Allocations The number of teacher salary units provided to school districts in accordance with *The Schools Act, 1997*.

Assessment The systematic process of gathering information on student learning so that a clear and valid picture emerges of what students know and are able to do in a particular curriculum area. Information is gathered at the classroom level through a variety of activities, tasks, and strategies such as observation, questioning, conferencing, learning logs, and portfolios. Provincial assessment includes: criterion-referenced testing and public examinations.

Certificate of grade A teaching certificate issued in accordance with *The Teacher Training Act.*

Constructed response item A test item for which a student must create his/her own response or product rather than select a response from an enumerated set. A short-answer item requires a few words, whereas extended-response items require at least a few sentences.

Criterion-referenced test A term used to describe tests that are designed to provide information about specific knowledge or skills possessed by students in relation to specified learning outcomes such as key-stage outcomes.

Curriculum Outcomes Statements articulating what students are expected to know and be able to do in particular subject areas. These outcome statements also describe what knowledge, skills and attitudes students are expected to demonstrate at the end of certain key stages in their education as a result of their cumulative learning experiences at each grade level in the entry to graduation continuum (e.g., key-stage, curriculum outcomes for English Language Arts at grades 3,6,9,12)

Evaluation The process of analyzing, reflecting upon and summarizing assessment information, and making judgments or decisions based upon the information gathered**.**

French programs

Core French Program (CF) - program of instruction in which students study the various aspects of French language during a regularly scheduled time slot for other subject areas.

Expanded Core French Program (ECF) - program of instruction in which students study the Core French program, plus at least one other complete subject where content and instruction are given entirely in French.

Intensive Core French (ICF) - Schools modify the instructional time for other prescribed Grade 6 curriculum areas to allocate 60% of the instructional day to Intensive Core French. This is done by scheduling selected curriculum areas during the other half of the school year only, and may entail less instructional time for particular areas. Curriculum areas compacted into half of the school year are chosen carefully on the basis of common (shared) or complementary outcomes to those in Intensive Core French.

French programs

French First Language Program (FFL) - program for children of Francophone parents in which French is the language of instruction in the classroom for all or most subject areas, and the means of communication in the school environment

French Immersion Program - French Immersion consists of programs and courses designed for English-speaking students in which French is the language of instruction and, as much as possible, the means of communication of the classroom. French immersion serves to achieve the Essential Graduation Learnings. In Newfoundland and Labrador, two options in French Immersion studies are available: **Early French Immersion (EFI)** and **Late French Immersion (LFI)**

Early French Immersion Program (EFI) -extends from Kindergarten to Level III, beginning at the Kindergarten level with approximately 100 percent of instruction in French. With the introduction of English Language Arts at Grade 3 and other subjects in English in later grades, the percentage of instructional time in French decreases through the years of schooling.

Late French Immersion Program (LFI) - extends from Grade 7 to Level III with approximately 75 percent of instruction in French in Grades 7 and 8. The percentage of instruction in French decreases through the years of schooling.

Full-time equivalent enrolment

The number of students enrolled. Kindergarten students who attend school 50% of a school day are counted as one half.

Full-time equivalent teacher

Head count of full-time teachers, plus part-time teachers according to the percent of allocated unit. Teachers who are employed less than full-time are counted in accordance with the percentage employed, i.e., a teacher who is employed 75 per cent of a full-time contract is counted as 75 per cent of a full-time equivalent teacher.

Full-time teacher

Teacher employed as 100% of an allocated unit.

Graduate

A student who has satisfied high school graduation requirements.

Graduation

See Appendix.

Graduation rate

The percentage of students in a particular group who successfully complete the requirements for graduation.The number of graduates for a given age group compared to the total population for that same age group. The graduation rate is calculated by taking the sum of age-specific ratios ([number of graduates aged 15 divided by the population aged 15] + [number of graduates aged 16 divided by the population aged 16] .. + [number of graduates aged 19 to 24 divided by the population aged 19]).

Individual Support Services plan

An educational plan for students with special needs summarizing the relevant information regarding the student's strengths, needs, and learning goals. A student receives support in addition to or sometimes instead of regular curriculum programming.

Licence

A licence issued in accordance with the *Teacher Training Act* (issued for one year only).

Part-time teacher

Teacher who is employed is less than 100% of an allocated unit.

Permit

A permit issued in accordance with the *Teacher Training Act*. (Restricted certificate issued to teachers who have not completed a teacher training program but who have at least four years of university study in certain approved subject areas.)

Point on salary scale	The step on the teacher salary scale which identifies the annual salary to which the individual teacher is entitled.
Private Candidate	Candidate registered in the Senior High School Program and for school level examinations in regular Level 3 courses who is not attending any regular school.
Private school	A school established, with the prior written approval of the Minister, under Section 43 of the *Schools Act, 1997.*
Provincial school	A school established under Section 50 of the *Schools Act, 1997*. The Minister may establish and operate a provincial school. A provincial school may be operated by the department separately, or by, with or for another department for government, a board or an organization approved by the Minister.
Public school	A school, established under the *Schools Act, 1997* and operated by a publicly-funded school board
Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) (Provincial)	A ratio, calculated by dividing the full-time equivalent enrolment by the number of full-time equivalent educators, excluding directors, assistant directors and program specialists employed at the district school board office.
Reporting	The processes and procedures used to communicate the summary and interpretation of information about student learning to various audiences who require it.
School	As defined by Section 2 of the *Schools Act, 1997*, a school means the body of school students that is organized as a unit for the purposes of education and includes the teachers and other staff members associated with the unit as well as the lands and premises used in connection with the unit.
School district	A school district is a district as defined in Section 2 of the *Schools Act, 1997.*
Senior High School program	Final three years of study in a 13-year, Kindergarten to Grade 12 education. The program is structured on a course credit basis entailing the accumulation of three or more years culminating in the acquisition of a Senior High School Graduation Diploma.
Special Education	**Change in reporting** - Prior to 1989-90, all students receiving special education programs and services were reported under the category "Special Education" and not under their grade levels. Since 1989-90, students who receive special education are reported in their home-based classroom. Information is also gathered on all students who receive special education services based on age and area and degree of exceptionality. **Policy** - The Special Education Policy Manual directs school districts to offer a wide range of services in a variety of settings determined to be appropriate to meet student needs. The model of service delivery is one that includes the provision of specialized instruction in all appropriate settings. Students begin their formal education in grade level classroom settings with support services provided when necessary. Decisions are made on an individual student basis using the Individual Support Services Planning (ISSP) process.
Student	An individual hired to support students with safety issues, personal needs, and other related duties specifice to students.
Student assistant	An individual hired to support students with safety issues, personal needs and other related duties specific to students.

Teacher A teacher, as defined in Section 2 of the *Schools Act, 1997*, is a person who has a valid certificate, licence or permit issued under the *Teacher Training Act*.

Teacher-Pupil Ratio (TPR) Ratio of full-time equivalent teachers/educators to pupils.

Text Describes any language event, whether oral, written, or visual. A conversation, a poem, a novel, a poster, a music video, a television program, and a multi-media production, for example, are all texts.

Urban See Appendix.

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