

# School Advisory Council Annual Survey

2023-24

# Thank you for participating in the 2023-24 SAC survey! It is greatly appreciated.

The annual survey:

- Provides a clearer picture of SACs in the province;
- Gathers ideas for professional development;
- Identifies areas of concern for SACs; and,
- Allows Regional Centres for Education (RCEs) and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) to access the raw survey data for their region for their own planning and informational purposes.

# Summary

RCE/CSAP	# of Schools	# of Schools with SACs	# of SACs	# of SACs Responded	Response Rate	# Schools with No SAC	Notes
AVRCE	42	39	35	30	86%	3	Three joint SACs
CBVRCE	38	38	38	37	97%	0	
CCRCE	66	65	63	61	97%	1	Two joint SACs
CSAP	23	22	21	21	100%	1	One joint SAC
HRCE	137	137	136	136	100%	0	One joint SAC
SSRCE	25	23	23	23	100%	2	
SRCE	20	20	19	19	100%	0	One joint SAC
TCRCE	22	22	21	21	100%	0	One joint SAC
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Nine joint SACs</b>

- The survey was open from November 7, 2023 – February 29, 2024
- The response rate increased from 92% in 2022-23
- The number of reported schools without an SAC dropped from 13 in 2022-23 to six in 2023-24
- The number of reported joint SACs increased from six in 2022-23 to nine in 2023-24

# GNSPES

- Once again, we heard that some SACs do not have access to a GNSPES account or are unsure if they have one.
- It is important to have a GNSPES account that the Chair can access regularly as these accounts are relied upon to share important information.
- For example, information on how to apply for the Innovation Fund was sent to SAC GNSPES emails.

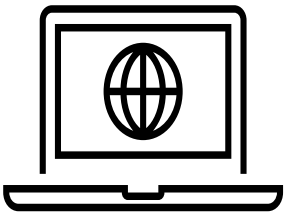


**Every SAC has a GNSPES account.  
Please reach out to your RCE/CSAP contact if you do not know your login  
information.**

# School Website

When asked if the SAC posts on the school website:

- 300 SACs stated that yes, they do post; and,
- 23 SACs stated that they do not.
- Other responses indicate that:
  - Some websites are being upgraded; and,
  - Some SACs are relying on social media or school newsletters for communications.



The SAC schedule, meeting agendas, and meeting summaries **must** be made available to the public according to the SAC Handbook.

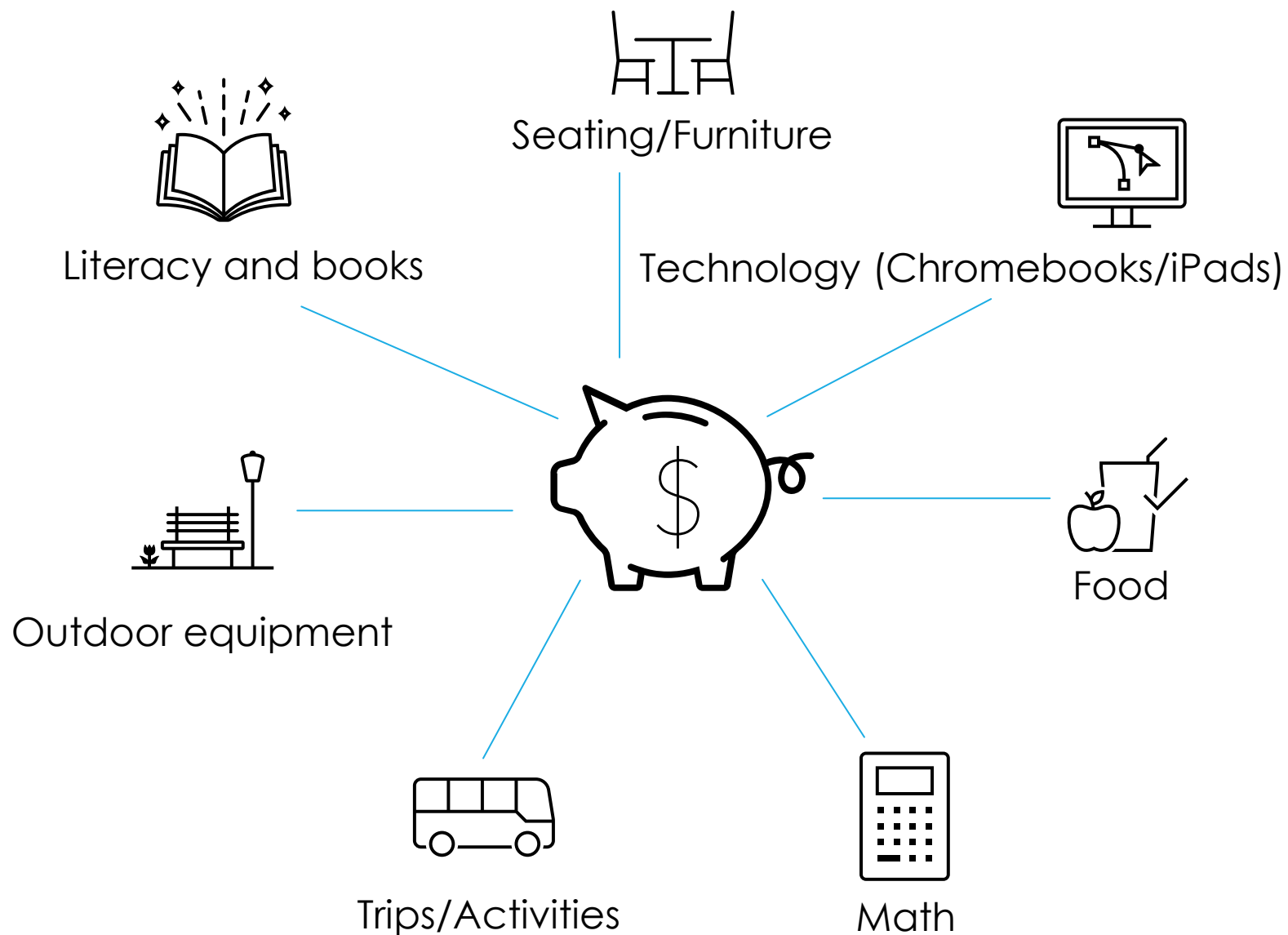
If your SAC is not using the school website, your SAC needs to ensure this information is posted in a place that is accessible to all members of the school community.

# Vacancies

- There are nearly **390 vacancies** on SACs across the provinces (down from nearly 420 in 2022-23).
- There are nearly **2700 SAC members** in Nova Scotia (up from nearly 2500 in 2022-23).
- On average, **47% of SACs have a full member complement** (up from 41% in 2022-23).
- We again heard that community members are the most difficult member category to fill, followed by staff.
- We heard of many ideas and plans to fill vacancies including:
  - “Having current members ask people they know”
  - “[Reaching out to] the business commerce committee”
  - “Educating the community and staff on what our SAC does”
  - “Advertising on the school website, reaching out to community partners such as Lion's Club”

# Diversity

- When asked if the SAC reflects the diversity of school communities, the most common answer was “yes” in all regions. However, it was not a strong majority.
- We heard that **49% of SACs have SAC Agreements that allow for designated seats** to reflect the diversity of your school community (up from 44% in 2022-23).
- Here is some of what we heard about designated seats:
  - “Our agreement states we will do everything possible to have at least one self-identified representative from the African Nova Scotian community and one self-identified representative from the Acadian community on our SAC.”
  - “We do not have designated seats, but our membership is open to all.”
  - “It can create tokenism.”
  - “It is articulated that filling those positions is a priority and there are continued efforts to invite people to join the SAC.”
  - “Our SAC has agreed to reserve a spot for ANS or Indigenous membership.”



# How has your SAC spent their funding in the past?

(some common responses)



# Suggestions for PD Topics

“Additional ways to spend funds, schools sharing information and experiences/ideas and resources that worked well for them.”

“I would like to see examples of data to be shared with SAC and data that should not.”

“Recruitment/retention of community members.”

“Equity policy and adaptations for schools.”

“Inclusive Education, Mental Health of Students.”

“Grant writing”

“SSP and short cycle planning process in schools.”

“Understanding of curriculum, policies.”

“What is the regional center's vision of the role of SAC?”

“Code of Conduct/bullying policies.”

There were many suggestions related to SAC “How-to's” (members/money /roles)

# Resources

- We will continue to review the results of the survey to support planning and resource development.
- Currently, there are professional development videos available on the EECD website ([School Advisory Councils | Education and Early Childhood Development \(ednet.ns.ca\)](https://www.ednet.ns.ca/school-advisory-councils)) about:
  - The role of SACs
  - SAC Funding
  - Membership
  - Meetings
- The website also houses templates, Qs and As, and one-pagers on a variety of topics related to SACs.
- If you are looking for other information, the SAC Handbook may be of use: [sachandbook.pdf \(ednet.ns.ca\)](https://www.ednet.ns.ca/sachandbook.pdf)

# Thank you!

[School Advisory Councils | Education and Early Childhood Development \(ednet.ns.ca\)](#)