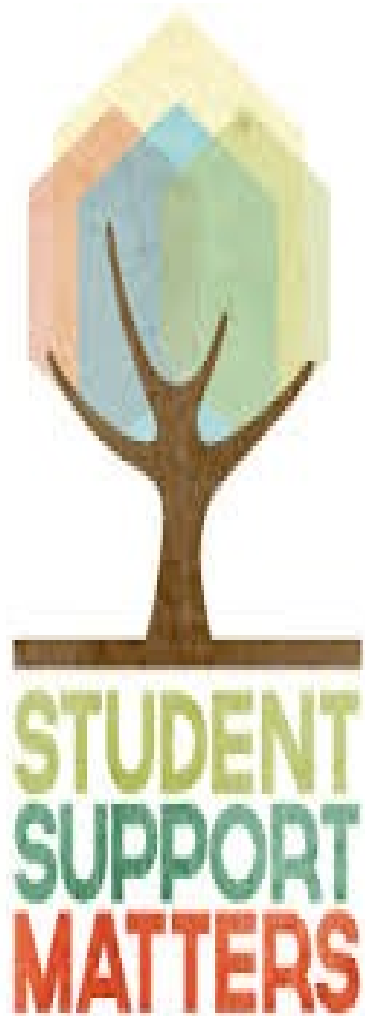


African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker Program Goal

The goal of the program is that same goal as the Halifax Regional Center for Education and the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development; which is to increase the achievement of students of African descent.

 **Halifax**
Regional Centre for Education

 **NOVA SCOTIA**



ELLENVALE JUNIOR HIGH

African Nova Scotian
Student Support Worker
Program





Introduction

Enhancing the educational experience for our African Nova Scotian Students is a priority at Ellenvale Junior High. In order to assist us in this endeavor, the HRCE has provided us with an African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker (ANS SSW). We are excited to be working with our ANS SSW, Charmaine Willis. **Mrs. Willis is with us every Thursday and Friday.**

The ANS SSW role has four elements:

1. Home and School Liaison: Building relationships with families to build a cultural bridge between the school and home. This can be done by:

- Making positive phone calls home
- Inviting parents in to discuss their child's progress, and/or work together to figure out how both the school and parents can work together to increase the students' success
- To inform parents about all the great and wonderful ways their children are developing academically and contributing to their school community

2. Cultural Identity: Students who have a strong cultural identity, will have a strong academic identity. This can be supported by:

- Creating a cultural youth group where students have the opportunity to develop and/or expand upon their leadership skills and knowledge of their cultural history
- Working with school administration and the students to provide speakers, films and engaging discussion to build cultural identity

3. Classroom Support: Utilizing the ANS SSW referral form, the ANS SSW would work to support students in the classroom by redirecting, providing context, and reengaging students into their academics. This is achieved by:

- Being present in the building as students are walking through the door and greeting them during their down time before classes begin
- Going into classes and observing the students and assisting them in becoming their own advocate in class
- Redirecting students focus of the tasks, trying to reengage students in the lesson, supporting them by clarifying what is being asked of them
- If agreed upon by both the teacher and the student, providing support outside of the classroom where students can work to complete the tasks assigned during the lesson
- Being accessible when students are feeling overwhelmed and they have to release their frustration and/or concerns with a person who they do not have to justify why they are feeling the way that they do



- Observing the students responses to the lessons, questioning the student about what they require to be successful, and then using this information to advocate to the Principal for this students learning needs

4. Student Advocacy: To be a student advocate you have to be present where students are during their free time and where they learn. This is achieved by:

- Communicating how a student learns best to the teachers and school administration
- Supporting students who feel as though they do not belong and will do everything in their power to get out of that uncomfortable environment. These students, at times, may leave class and ask the ANS SSW if they can talk. At this moment the SSW may not be fully aware of what is happening, or they may be very aware of what is happening and are trying to comfort the student to ensure that the rest of their day is focused more on their learning than escaping what they consider an unsafe environment. Either way at the end of the conversation the ANS SSW will reach out to school administration to discuss possible solutions to help the student be successful

For more information or to discuss how Mrs. Willis can support your child, please feel free to reach out to her.

Contact Info

Charmaine Willis
902-435-8420 ext.3401213
cwillis@hrce.ca

Visit us on the web:
<https://elj.hrce.ca/>