

## African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker Program

The goal of the program in collaboration with Halifax Regional Centre for Education, the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the African Canadian Services Branch, is to increase the student achievement of African Descent



ELLENVALE JUNIOR HIGH

## African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker Program





## Introduction

Enhancing the educational experience for our African Nova Scotian Students is important at Ellenvale Junior High. To assist us with this initiative, the provincial department, African Canadian Services Branch and HRCE has provided us with an African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker (ANSSSW). We are excited to be working with our ANSSSW, Charmaine Willis. **Mrs. Willis is with us every Thursday and Friday.**

### The ANSSSW role involves:

**1. Home and School Liaison:** Building relationships with families to build a positive, engaging and collaborative environment between the school and home. This can be done by:

- Inviting parents to the school or through other communication methods to discuss their child's progress, and/or work together to identify solutions on how both the school and parents/guardians can work collectively to increase the students' success.
- To communicate with parents/guardians regarding the positive achievements their children are developing academically and contributing to their school community.

**2. Cultural Identity:** Students who have a strong sense of cultural identity, will know who they are which helps with their well-being and self-esteem. This can be supported by:

- Providing cultural programming activities/ events where students have the opportunity to be aware, engage and affirm their rich unique cultural history.
- Engage in community educational initiatives to further develop leadership skills.

### 3. Direct Support and Classroom Support:

Once student has been identified by the school student planning team and communications sent to parents/guardians, a direct support referral form will be completed. The ANSSSW will work with students in the classroom or other designated space by providing guidance to promote regular attendance, enhance self-esteem and achieve success in school. This is achieved by:

- Creating goals and plans for students to strive for academic success.
- Assist and monitor students progress using PowerSchool regarding attendance, assignments and classroom engagement.
- Provide support with developing positive work and study habits.
- Provide support with problem-solving strategies.



**4. Student Advocacy:** Building relationships with students, parents/guardians to ensure their school experience is inclusive and equitable. This is achieved by:

- Staying informed about students' experiences to address potential challenges affecting the students' wellbeing or academic progress, enabling effective support and advocacy on their behalf.
- Mentoring students to advocate for themselves relating to their academic and wellbeing needs.
- Working with administration, staff, parents/guardians to ensure a positive school experience.

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

### Contact Info:

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<https://elj.hrc.ca/>