

# African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker Program

## What is the Student Support Worker Program?

The **primary role of the Student Support Worker** is to work to promote a school climate that is safe, supportive, and respectful and that connects African Nova Scotian students to a broad array of school and community resources. Student support workers are based in schools and work with the school staff and the home to support students' school success.

Student Support Workers (SSWs) work with the support of school principals and staff, under the direction of the RCH coordinator. They work as part of a team that includes students, parents/guardians, principals, teachers, and support staff.

The Student Support Worker Program is part of the RCH Department in TCRSB. It was established across Nova Scotia in 1995 in response to a recommendation from the *Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) Report on Education: Redressing Inequity--Empowering Black Learners*.

## The Student Support Worker Program is Designed to:

- Provide positive role models
- Develop a learning environment and school atmosphere that supports learning for all students
- Establish, as necessary, contact with parents/guardians through phone calls or visits to the home
- Monitor students' academic progress and work with school staff to track progress, communicating information on student progress to parents/guardians when needed.
- Work proactively with students, staff and families to encourage positive behaviour and participation in school, staying informed of possible student discipline issues and providing intervention or support if appropriate
- Work with system staff and appropriate external education organizations for stay-in-school strategies and academic success

## How Does a Student Support Worker Support Students and Families?

- Provides personal support to self-identified students, and to parents/guardians when appropriate, in many different settings
- Acts as a liaison between students, school staff, family and the community
- Understands the histories and circumstances of students
- Identifies available external educational programs and opportunities such as tutoring, learning programs, scholarships, cultural activities and more
- Works with students to explore course selection, career options, and post-secondary education
- Encourages daily school attendance and on-time arrival at school
- Helps staff and students create a school environment that is welcoming and reflects cultural diversity