

The Halifax Regional School Board is committed to supporting the Nova Scotia Department of Education provincial School Code of Conduct and Positive Effective Behaviour Supports (PEBS) initiative which maximizes opportunities for students to achieve academic skill competence, social skill competence and lifestyle skill competence. Schools implementing PEBS report healthy, well ordered and safe learning environments, clear and effective communications of school expectations, higher student achievement, a positive school attitude and higher student and staff morale.

PEBS is an approach; it is not a program, nor is it a curriculum. It is compiled from a broad range of effective practices and interventions based on research validated practices and behavioural science which emphasizes strategies for achieving important social and academic outcomes while preventing problem behaviour.

PEBS research highlights the fact that punishment, in and of itself, generally does not have a long-term benefit for students and creates a false sense of security for schools. Practices that focus on positive and proactive approaches are more consistent with learning socially acceptable behaviour in schools. PEBS places an increased emphasis on proactive school-wide prevention and early intervention. (*Provincial School Code of Conduct and School Code of Conduct Guidelines – February 2006*)

Schools are reporting 20% to 60% reductions in office discipline referrals, improved social climate and improved academic performance when they engage in school wide PEBS practices, such as defining behavioural expectations, teaching these expectations to all students, maintaining ongoing strategies to acknowledge and reward appropriate behaviour, establishing a consistently implemented curriculum of consequences for inappropriate behaviour, and gathering and using behavioural data for active decision making. (*Cushing et al 2000*)

The Safe Schools division of School Administration works with a PEBS Lead Team to support schools with the implementation of PEBS.