

# Chapter 2: Regional School Board Governance and Oversight



## Why we did this audit:

- Previous audit of a regional school board found problems with monitoring and oversight of student performance
- Education of our youth is a priority for Nova Scotians
- More than 120,000 students in public schools
- Over \$1.2 billion in school board budgets

## Overall conclusions:

- While all three boards have some good practices by both board management and governing boards, there are also some shortcomings
- Department is not clearly defining the role of school boards or meeting its responsibilities under the Education Act
- Department and boards agreed with all ten recommendations

## What we found in our audit:

- Good job on continuous school improvement process by all three boards
- Governing boards generally get good information from management
- Governing boards need to ask for more information in some areas, such as school progress towards goals
- Department has not clearly defined its roles, as well as those of regional school boards
- Superintendent evaluations
  - Strait does this well
  - Chignecto-Central and Halifax are doing evaluations but need improvements
- Self-evaluations of governing boards
  - Chignecto-Central and Halifax are doing these but have weaknesses
  - Strait had not completed a self-evaluation at the time of our audit
- Assessing student performance on provincial assessments
  - Chignecto-Central and Halifax governing boards receive the needed information
  - Strait receives some information but requires more
- All three governing boards need more information on how students with individual program plans are progressing
- The Department has not set clear expectations for school board performance
- Chignecto-Central and Strait management do not get enough information to fully evaluate progress towards school goals
- Additional student progress data would help give a more complete picture