

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**



Be the best you can be!

**Brookhouse
Elementary School**

African Nova Scotian
Student Support Worker
Program



Introduction

Enhancing the educational experience for our African Nova Scotian Students is a priority at Brookhouse Elementary. In order to assist us in this endeavor, the 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 Monday, Tuesday and every second Wednesday.**

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
- Going into classes and observing the students and assisting them in becoming their own advocate in class
- Engaging students in the lesson, by supporting them of what they are being asked to do.
- 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 need someone to listen.



- Observing and questioning the student about what they need to be successful, and using this information to advocate to the Principal for this students learning needs .
-

4. Student Advocacy

- Communicating how a student learns best to the teachers and school administration
- Representations matters—having an adult who looks like them for support.
- Supporting students who sometimes have challenges fitting in or feel uncomfortable in their environment.
- 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
902-435-8318
cwillis@hrce.ca

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