

Chapter 4: The Province's Schools

In 2007/08, 292 schools operated in Newfoundland and Labrador. Of these, virtually all (95.9%, or 280 of the 292 schools) were public schools. The remaining schools include the Newfoundland and Labrador School for the Deaf, the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Centre, three First Nation schools, and seven private schools in the province. Unless otherwise noted, this report will focus on the 280 public schools.

School districts

The Department of Education is the foundation of the province's school system. It is charged with the responsibility of providing education to approximately 70,000 students living in the province. On a local level, five regional districts oversee the day-to-day operations of schools. Each district is managed by a regional school board responsible for a wide range of duties including staffing and distributing resources; evaluating, acquiring, distributing and maintaining technological resources and buildings; transporting students; and developing instructional policies and practices.

These five districts include four Anglophone (Labrador, Western, Nova Central and Eastern) and one Francophone district, the Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF). The CSF was created to meet the needs of students whose first language was French. It is responsible for five schools located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador City, De Grau, La Grand'Terre and St. John's. The Eastern district is the largest in the province with the highest

percentage of students, teachers and schools situated within its boundaries. The profile of the Nova Central and Western districts is quite similar with both having virtually the same percentage of students, teachers and schools (see *figure 4.1*). The following map illustrates the geographic distribution of these districts.

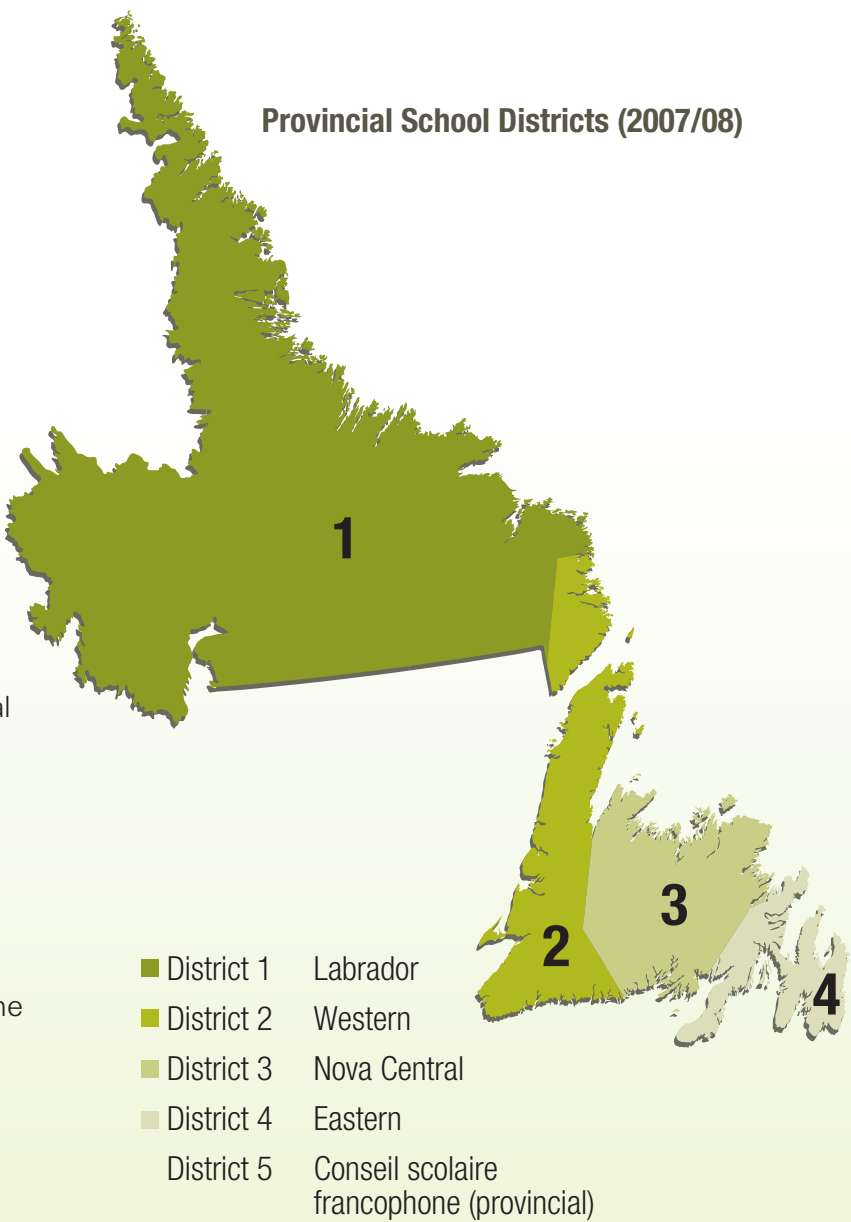
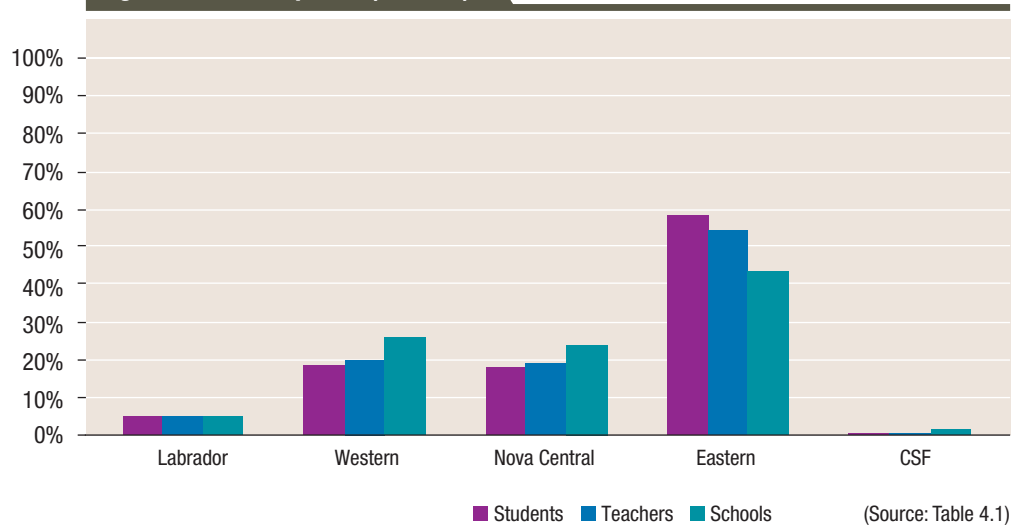




Figure 4.1 District profile (2007/08)



Public schools

The number of schools in the province has steadily declined since peaking at 1,253 in 1960. During the past six years, the number of schools declined by 11.7% from 317 in 2002/03, to 280 in 2007/08 (see *figure 4.2*). The most pronounced change occurred in the

Labrador district where 21.1% of the schools closed since 2002/03. The Eastern district experienced the smallest decline (a 6.2% reduction in the number of schools). There was no change within the CSF district (see *figure 4.3*).

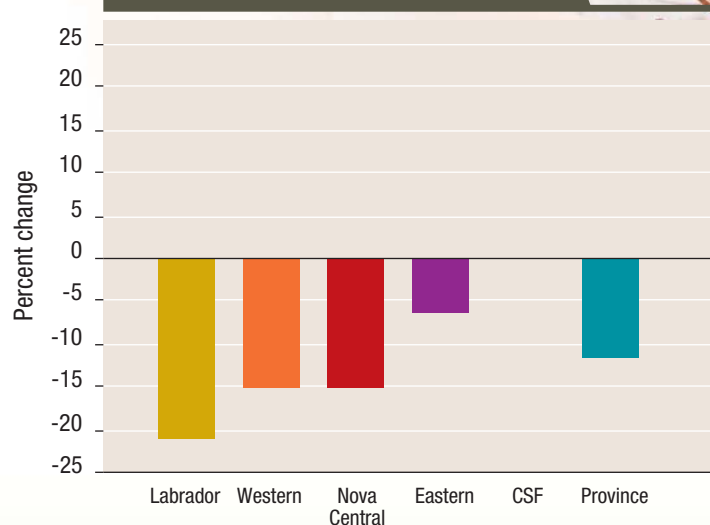
Figure 4.2: Number of public schools (2002/03-2007/08)



(Source: Table 4.2)



Figure 4.3 Percent change in the number of schools per district (2002/03-2007/08)



(Source: Table 4.3)

School configuration

Schools can be grouped based on the grade level configuration. There are six different school configurations in the province. They include:

Kindergarten - 12 All grades

Primary Any combination of grades between Kindergarten to Grade 3, 4 or 5 with no higher grades present

Elementary K-6 to K-9 or any combination in this range

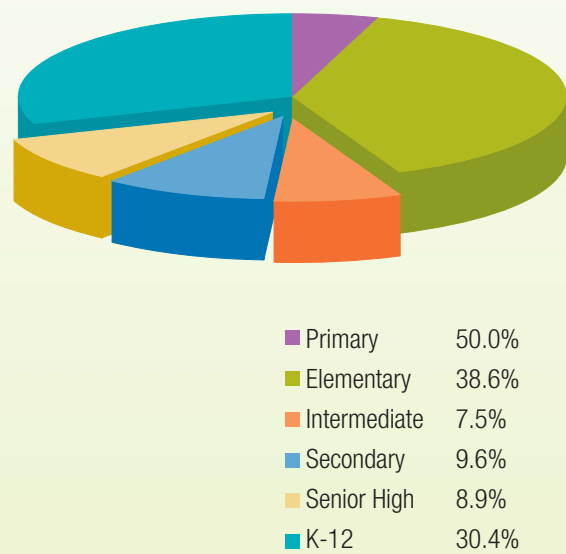
Intermediate Often includes Grades 7-9 but can include 1 or 2 grades above or below (e.g., Grades 6-9)

Secondary Any combination of grades between Grade 7 to Grade 10, 11 or 12

Senior High Grades 9-12 or 10-12

In 2007/08, the majority of the 280 schools in the province were either elementary or K-12. Combined these two school types accounted for over two-thirds of all schools. Primary schools made up 5.0% of the province's schools (see *figure 4.4*),

Figure 4.4: School configurations (2007/08)



(Source: Table 4.4)

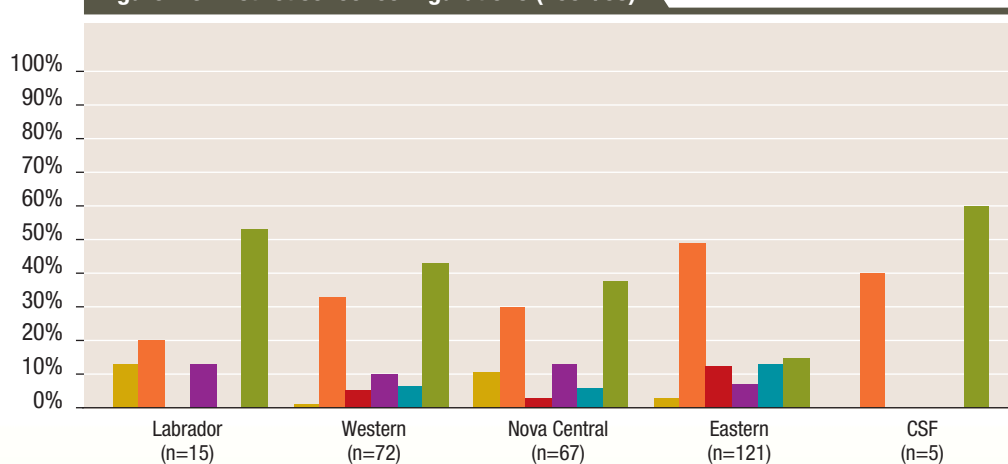


A district perspective

The composition of schools within each district varies. For example, in 2007/08, nearly half of the schools in the Eastern district were elementary. The Labrador district, on the other hand, was made

up of a higher percentage of K-12 schools. The composition of schools within the Western and Nova Central districts was quite similar with both having a majority of either K-12 or elementary schools (see *figure 4.5*).

Figure 4.5: District school configurations (2007/08)



(n) number of schools in each district ■ Primary ■ Elementary ■ Intermediate ■ Secondary ■ Senior High ■ K-12

(Source: Table 4.5)



School size

The size of the province's schools has remained fairly consistent over the past six years with the majority having an enrolment of less than 300 students. Approximately 17% of schools have 450 or more students enrolled (see *figure 4.6*).

In 2007/08, the majority of schools in the Labrador, Western and Nova Central districts were smaller with enrolments of less than 150. The highest percentage of large schools (i.e., those with enrolments of 450 students or more) was found in the Eastern district (see *figure 4.7*). All five schools within the CSF district had less than 150 students enrolled.

Figure 4.6: Provincial school size (2002/03-2007/08)

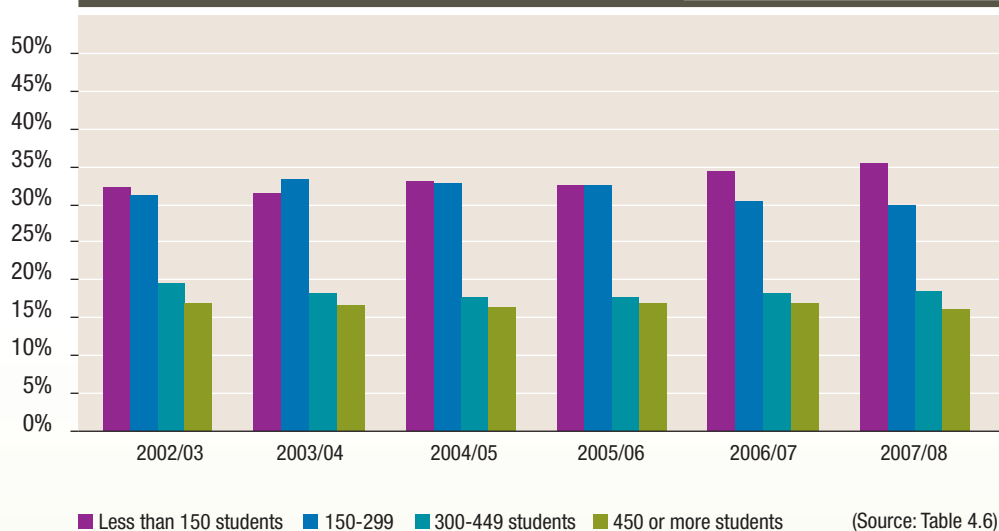


Figure 4.7: District school size (2007/08)

