

French Education Framework

This framework describes our commitment to deliver high-quality French language programs that are culturally and linguistically responsive and support the well-being and achievement of every student. French Minority Language (FML) and French Second Language (FSL) education are unique and distinct programs requiring supports that are specific to the goals of each program. The [Inclusive Education Policy](#) (Nova Scotia 2019) provides a mandate ensuring equitable access to universal support while providing high quality learning opportunities to all students.

It is essential to recognize the importance of instruction that respects the principles of minority language pedagogy in order to strengthen the cultural identity of Acadian and francophone students. The French Education Framework is meant to provide a guiding structure that strengthens the learning environment for students and promotes the vitality of our Acadian and francophone communities. Additionally, this Framework centers around the development of the linguistic security of our bilingual learners in both official languages of Canada.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

- values the importance of educating and learning in French and appreciates the different levels of competency and ability in more than one language
- recognizes the right of Acadian and francophone parents to have their children educated in Acadian schools, and acknowledges that curriculum needs to empower students to value the French language and their Acadian or francophone cultural identity, which contributes to the growth, vitality, and strength of their community
- creates opportunities for all Nova Scotia students to embrace Canada's official languages by providing equitable support and services necessary to offer a Core French Program as well as providing opportunities for French immersion programs
- recognizes that our Mi'kmaq and Gaelic communities are embracing their heritage by exposing students to their cultural languages
- recognizes the positive impact of multilingual competency for preparing all students to live and lead in Nova Scotia as global citizens

Our Vision for French Education for ALL students in Nova Scotia

Students will be able to communicate and interact confidently and effectively in French with their peers while developing the knowledge, skills, and perspectives they need to participate fully as citizens.

The *Nova Scotia Provincial Literacy Strategy* (Nova Scotia 2017) states that “literacy is the foundation for all learning”. When we are literate, we can acquire new knowledge, connect it to our world, and use it. For Nova Scotian students, literacy learning is about acquiring, creating, connecting, and communicating meaning in a wide variety of contexts through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Literacy is reinforced by using these skills across different contexts, including different languages. Learning another language strengthens first-language literacy skills and is a lifelong journey. Not only is it critical to have sound literacy-based approaches in first-language learning, it is vital to recognize the importance of promoting literacy-based approaches in second-language learning as well.

Language learners become increasingly adept at communicating as they build on acquired skills and engage in meaningful interactions in a variety of contexts. The [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#) (CEFR) (Council of Europe 2020) helps learners and their teachers identify acquired skills, recognize progress, and remain motivated to speak French.

Community partnerships are an essential component to French-first-language education as they provide opportunities for students to identify with their Acadian and francophone community. This will help foster authentic experiences in French, which are essential for language growth and development. Community partnerships will help mould students’ cultural identities and create a sense of pride and belonging within their community and beyond.

Educators and their communities must create partnerships to foster the development of French language skills in order to promote literacy and linguistic security, allowing our students to confidently communicate in French locally, provincially, nationally, and globally. To create a sense of relevancy and connection, students in all our French programs need to see where and how French is reflected in their communities.

We will work together to support students’ strengths and help address their challenges in French education programming in a culturally and linguistically responsive, accepting, respectful, and supportive manner that honours all students’ cultural identities and values their experiences and world views.

French Education Programs in Nova Scotia Schools

<p>The French Minority Language (FML) Program offered by the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP), the only francophone school board of the province, is for students of Acadian and francophone descent as described in Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Admission criteria for enrolment can be found on CSAP's Registration page.</p>	<p>French-second-language (FSL) programs are provided in all the Regional Centers of Education (RCEs). FSL programs provide basic (Core French) and enhanced (French Immersion and Integrated French) opportunities to develop second-language literacy competencies in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French using interactive and conversational teaching methods. A student's proficiency in French increases based on the amount of time and the level of intensity of instruction in French. Proficiency can be evaluated with resources such as those found on the "How Bilingual Am I?" website. All FSL programs allow students to develop an appreciation of French language and local, national, and global French cultures. Students successfully completing <i>any</i> of the FSL programs are prepared for second language programs at the post-secondary level.</p>	
<p>The FML program provides a high quality public school education to students in French through the development of their cultural identity in a minority context.</p>	<p>Core French (including Intensive French) is a required course from grade 4 to grade 9 and is available as an elective from grade 10 to grade 12. RCEs must provide a Core French program to all students and are encouraged to provide the Intensive French program to all grade 6 students.</p>	<p>Decisions to establish French Immersion and Integrated French programs, as well as their point of entry, are made by the RCEs.</p>

<p>After completing grade 12 in FML, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be highly proficient in French as a first language and have developed a positive attitude towards French language and culture • be part of francophone culture and identify with the francophone community • be proficient in English • be able to pursue post-secondary studies and work in French, English, or both languages • be able to appreciate other languages, cultures, and participate in their communities in Canada and/or around the world 	<p>After completing the Core French program, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have developed basic skills in French as a base for pursuing bilingualism • be part of and have an understanding and appreciation of a bilingual culture • be proficient in English • be able to live, work, and pursue post-secondary studies in English or pursue further education in French • be able to understand and appreciate other languages, cultures, and communities in Canada and around the world 	<p>After completing a French Immersion program, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be proficient in French and have developed a positive attitude towards bilingualism • feel part of and have a deep understanding and appreciation of a bilingual culture • be proficient in English • be able to live, work, and pursue post-secondary studies in French, English, or both languages • be able to understand and appreciate other languages, cultures, and communities in Canada and around the world
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French Education Framework and Expected Outcomes

Framework		Expected Outcomes
Equitable Access to French Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion, recruitment, integration, and retention of learners in FML and FSL programs 	<p>Create opportunities, strategies, and resources to support all school staff in French program delivery and to empower them to work collectively to identify and eliminate barriers that interfere with all students' well-being and achievement.</p> <p>Increase opportunities for students who are not traditionally represented, including those with special needs, to participate in French Immersion programming.</p>
Program Offerings—French Education Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access, maintenance, development, and/or enrichment of a variety of programs/ approaches and educational resources; adapted to FML programming and FSL teaching 	<p>Increase opportunities for all students to pursue their studies in FML or FSL as a commitment to honour and respect each student's cultural and linguistic identities and knowledge systems.</p>
Academic Achievement of Learners—Measuring Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of learning for students of FML and FSL 	<p>Identify performance targets and evaluation measures to assess French language skills based on the CEFR.</p> <p>Include student voices and choices to assist them in achieving their French language goals.</p>

<p>Positive and Enriched Learning Environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural enrichment of learning environments • Promotion of ties for French students between their learning environments and the community • Development of a student's French identity in their community/in society 	<p>Provide multiple opportunities for students to develop and strengthen their French language skills through a variety of contexts as a commitment to honour and respect each student's cultural and linguistic identities and knowledge systems.</p> <p>Develop strategies valuing the learning of French as a tool for personal, intellectual, and social growth in an environment where students feel they belong, are affirmed, validated, and nurtured and where students feel safe and welcomed in French Language learning as well as all other aspects of their daily experience.</p>
<p>High Quality Teaching and Supports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and provision of staff training (initial and continuous) • Development of programs adapted for FML and FSL programs • Recruitment and retention of qualified and specialized staff 	<p>Increase professional learning opportunities for teachers to provide inclusive, high quality French first- and second-language instruction.</p> <p>Implement a system of supports for teaching and learning in French and monitor their effectiveness by using evidence of students' strengths and challenges.</p>
<p>Research: Action Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on learning and instruction and dissemination of knowledge with an impact on FML and FSL learning 	<p>Mobilize all partners committed to working collectively to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and eliminate barriers to equitable and culturally responsive practices in order to contribute to student achievement and well-being in FFL and FSL programs • identify and evaluate current practices to empower students in their cultural development and allow them to develop their full potential in language proficiency • determine the impact of, and correlation of, inclusive educational practice on FSL and FFL learning

References

- Council of Europe. 2020. *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)*. Strasbourg, FR: Council of Europe. www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions.
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