



French-language Services Plan

2026–2027

*Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development*

French-language Services Plan 2026–27
Education and Early Childhood Development

Ce document est également disponible en français sous le titre : « Plan de services en français 2026-2027 »

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Message from the Deputy Minister

Bonjour:

It is with great pleasure that I **present the 2026–2027 French-language Services Plan** for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD). This plan reflects **our ongoing commitment to ensuring equitable access to education in French** for Acadian and Francophone communities across Nova Scotia.

Because of its unique mandate, EECD plays a distinctive role within the provincial government in serving Acadian and Francophone Nova Scotians. **I deeply value the vitality of these communities**, and I reaffirm our responsibility to ensure that parents, students, teachers, early childhood educators, and support staff receive information in French for the benefit of students, staff, and families.

Student well-being and achievement remain central priorities for every branch of the Department. The French Programs and Services Branch (FPSB) will continue to play a critical role in supporting the development and delivery of educational programs and services that benefit Acadian and Francophone communities, as well as French second-language education across the province.

This plan is aligned with the objectives of the [2023–2028 Canada–Nova Scotia Agreement on Minority Language Services](#) and our NS Action Plan developed in collaboration with our partners that reflects our strong commitment to culturally inclusive education. Foundational documents such as the *Inclusive Education Policy* help guide us toward a more equitable system—one that supports student well-being and success and strengthens collaboration across departmental branches and with our educational and community partners.

Merci.

Tracey Barbrick

Deputy Education Minister

What we're doing to contribute to the growth of the Acadian and Francophone community

We recognize the importance of French-language services and endeavour to fulfil our responsibilities under the *French-Language Services Act* and regulations. We believe Nova Scotians should have access to quality government services in French, and this plan demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our programs, policies and services address the priorities expressed by the Acadian and Francophone community. To achieve this aim, we collaborate with other designated public institutions across government – including the Office of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie – through the French-language Services Coordinating Committee. We greatly value this partnership, which ensures a continued understanding of the unique needs of our province's Acadian and Francophone community.

We encourage Nova Scotians to request services from government in French. We also encourage Acadians and Francophones to have their voices heard by participating in agencies, on boards and on commissions, which are regularly advertised by the Executive Council Office. As we continue to maintain and improve our French-language services, we welcome feedback on our progress and invite you to share with us your comments or questions by contacting our French-language services coordinator. If you wish to make a formal complaint regarding French-language services, please contact the Office of the Ombudsman.

French-language services coordinator:

Stéphan Goldsmith (stephan.goldsmith@novascotia.ca, 902 456-1403)

Services we offer in French

Programs

Curriculum Development and Related Resources

The French Programs and Services Branch at EECD has three divisions to support French First Language Education, French Second Language Education and French Program Partnerships. Consultants and other specialists work in collaboration with other branches of the department to support initiatives related to French second language and first-language programs, including support for the use of effective, evidence-based pedagogical practices in French classrooms.

Official Languages Programs

Destination Clic is a summer program for Francophone students who are in grades 8, 9 or 10, who attend French as a first-language school. This experience provides an opportunity to foster and enhance French-speaking skills while partaking in cultural activities and meeting other Francophones from across Canada.

Explore is an intensive, government-funded immersion program held during the spring or summer that provides the opportunity to learn or improve French-speaking skills through cultural

experiences and activities. The sessions are taught in post-secondary institutions across Canada.

Odyssey is a nine-month paid program for students who have completed at least one full year of post-secondary studies. They develop new skills while inspiring youth to practise their French-speaking skills. Under the direction of the classroom teacher, they work in the classroom setting using games and activities to encourage students to learn and improve their French-speaking skills.

Nova Scotia Part-Time Language Monitor Program is a part-time, paid work program that provides an opportunity to develop new skills in a classroom setting while inspiring students in French immersion or in a French first-language school to practise their French-speaking skills through cultural and linguistic activities.

Éducation France International and the language assistant bidirectional program is a ten-month program for students who have completed or engaged in the field of Education. Students from France can come to Canada and develop new skills while inspiring youth to practise their French-speaking skills. Under the direction of the classroom teacher, they work in the classroom setting using games and activities to encourage students to learn and improve their French-speaking skills. This program also is of benefit to Canadians, as post-secondary students can apply to do the same in France, with English as the language of instruction.

Bursaries

The purpose of the **French Language Bursary Program for Nova Scotia Teachers** is to encourage teachers who hold a Nova Scotia teacher's certificate to pursue courses at Université Sainte-Anne to improve French language- competencies or to pursue courses at the master's level in French at a Canadian post-secondary institution.

The **French Language Bursary Program for Nova Scotia Students** is designed to encourage students to study full-time at Université Sainte-Anne or at another Francophone institution in Canada, where French is the language of instruction.

Support for Community Enrichment Initiatives

Arising from the *Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction*, EECD administers funding to several community organizations, such as:

- Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre
- Équipe d'alphabétisation de la Nouvelle-Écosse
- Fédération culturelle acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse
- Construction Association of Nova Scotia and other sector partners
- ARC Foundation
- Techsploration
- Conseil jeunesse provincial de la Nouvelle-Écosse

- All the Francophone community centres in our Acadian/Francophone regions!

Translation Services

The department has a team dedicated to translation requests. This team handles the translation of all EECD documents available to the public and provides support with general French-language inquiries.

We aim to have available, in both official languages, all materials related to French programs in the education system (French minority language as well as French Second language).

This includes (but not limited to):

- Communication to and from the education system (including regional executive directors/superintendent, teachers, students, parents, and educational partners), such as
 - Emails
 - Correspondence
 - Fact Sheets
 - Q&A documents
- Curriculum documents
- Learning resources
- Assessment and evaluation documents
- Ministerial reports
- Web pages

For instructions on how to submit translation requests related to Education, please contact our French Language and Services Branch for more information. EECD has co-developed a glossary with our Divisional and Regional partners, including the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial, to help ensure consistent language throughout our French language translations.

Glossary: [DPSLF - Glossaire.xlsx](#)

Communicating with the public in French

Based on the department's internal French-Language Services Policy, we respect the following guidelines when handling communications in French:

- All correspondence (paper or electronic) received in French must be replied to in French.
- Requests to communicate orally in French from the public are, to the extent possible, handled by bilingual staff.
- English and French versions of all EECD documents are released simultaneously when intended to be shared with the Education system or for public consumption.

- All EECD documents originating in English that will be provided to the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) and the French second-language population are provided in French. The same applies to public documents such as official statements by the minister, as well as regular correspondence to regional centres for education and to the CSAP from the offices of the minister and the deputy minister.

What we did to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2025–26

Objective 1: Strengthen internal operational structures, including policy, legislative, and administrative frameworks.

- BROCA, our new translation management system, has been implemented since June 2025. It has improved communication between internal stakeholders and the translation services. It has also allowed the translation team to increase consistency between projects thanks to the translation memory.
- The Student Assessment Division has been transitioning the grades 6 and 8 provincial assessments from paper-based assessments to an online platform in cooperation with CSAP and their Regional Assessment Coordinator.
- We have continued to develop resources and documents that support French language work related to PD development opportunities.
- We have strengthened partnership road maps and continue to leverage all partnerships for the benefit of students in French Language Programs.

Objective 2: Develop and deliver quality French-language services and programs to the public.

We have:

- Translated 1,334,760 words to improve access to information for teachers and educators working in the Acadian and Francophone communities
- In support of safe schools, released the Provincial School Code of Conduct and OHS resources/tools in French, as well as developed a new gender-based violence prevention and bystander education curricula and resources in English and French for grades primary to 12.
- Implemented a new front-end user experience at Nova Scotia School Book Bureau (NSSBB) to provide services in English and French.

- Streamlined our processes and improved our publicity, relative to French Language Services, including National Program opportunities and bursary offerings.
- Provided schools with resources in English and French to support students within the education system, including (but not limited to) skilled trades and career development.

Objective 3: Maintain ongoing dialogue and consultation with the Acadian, Francophone, and Francophile communities.

- CSAP teachers have participated in provincial advisory groups, scoring panels, item-writing groups and field testing to support the ongoing development and scoring of French Language assessments that reflect the unique curriculum of the CSAP.
- For the development of the new Gender-based Violence/Bystander curricula, the Curriculum Renewal branch worked with the CSAP and associated community organizations
- We have supported the translations of professional development resources, including both video (i.e., Come on a Journey video series) and written (i.e., How to incorporate CRP within the P-2, How to incorporate CRP into the Gr 3–6 classrooms) products.

How we plan to maintain or improve our French-language services in 2026–27

Objective 1: Strengthen internal operational structures, including policy, legislative, and administrative frameworks.

- Improve access to information related to teaching in Nova Scotia for Francophone internationally trained candidates
- Find ways to make information in French more accessible and inclusive
- Add a bilingual member to the Service Provider Funding team with the Early Years branch

Objective 2: Maintain ongoing dialogue and consultation with the Acadian, Francophone, and Francophile communities.

- Continue to invite the CSAP to participate and partner in our work. When partnering with universities, we will continue to include Université Sainte-Anne.

- Continue to build a relationship with French first language Early Years childcare providers as well as continue working with CSAP to expand BAP programs in Francophone schools.
- Designate a seat on the Council on African Canadian Education (CACE) for a Francophone of African Descent who will represent the educational interest of this community.

Objective 3: Develop and deliver quality French-language services and programs to the public.

- Review and renew services and programs in cooperation with partners from the Acadian and Francophone community
- Launch a fully bilingual website for the Student Assessment Division
- Support the recruitment of Francophone early childhood educators and develop a strategy to recruit more Francophone family home providers.