

January 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Earlier in the school year we communicated to families a change in the provincial French Immersion program. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) updated the EECD Policy 309, **French Second Language Programs** to state that 25% is now the *required* minimum amount of French instruction time and therefore students *must* obtain these five courses in order to successfully complete the program.

We recognize that this has been easier for some students to achieve than others as there are many factors that impact scheduling FI options. Having said that, we know that change takes time, so ASD-S has decided to extend the current practice for awarding the FI Certificates to students who have achieved the minimum 3 FI credits in Grades 11 & 12, to those graduating in 2021. We encourage students to continue to work toward meeting the requirements of Policy 309 as this will only serve to strengthen their language skills and help them to meet the goals of the FI program. After 2021, only students who attain the 25% (5 FI Credit Courses) will be recognized as FI graduates at graduation ceremonies and will receive the FI Certificate.

When considering their course selections, students should be aware that there are FI courses available online. Course selection from the New Brunswick Virtual Learning Centre varies by year but may include FSL Law, FSL Intro to Environmental Science, FSL Writing, and more, and count towards the FI program requirements. Students are encouraged to speak to their teacher or guidance counselor to discuss options.

If you have any concerns please reach out to Jillian Ingalls Garey, our French Second Language Subject Area Coordinator (9-12) at [jillian.garey@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:jillian.garey@nbed.nb.ca) or Gary Hall, Director of Curriculum & Instruction [Gary.Hall@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:Gary.Hall@nbed.nb.ca)

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