

# Making the Choice:

## Learning French as a Second Language

New Brunswick has three education program options to support students learning French.

### English Prime

Students participate in Pre-Intensive, Intensive and Post-Intensive French instruction from Grades 4 to 10. All students participate in French language and culture learning experiences in the early grades (K-3) for 30 minutes weekly.

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How much time is spent in French language instruction?

**Grade 4:**  
150 minutes per week  
**Grade 5:**  
60% of the school day for one term, and 150 minutes per week for the other term  
**Grades 6 to 8:**  
200 minutes per week

Is the program offered in all schools?

Yes

What is taught in French?

French is taught through a literacy-based approach. During the Intensive French block in Grade 5, math, music and physical education are taught in English.

What is the oral proficiency target?  
(see back page for details)

**Intermediate**  
by the end of Grade 12

### French Immersion (Grade 3 Entry)

The first entry point for the immersion program

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**Grades 3 to 5:**  
80% of the school day  
**Grades 6 to 8:**  
70% of the school day

The program is offered where numbers warrant (as per Policy 309).

Most subjects (such as science, social studies and math) are taught in French. This may vary from school to school.

**Advanced**  
by the end of Grade 12

### Late French Immersion (Grade 6 Entry)

The second entry point for the immersion program

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**Grades 6 to 8:**  
70% of the school day

The program is offered where numbers warrant (as per Policy 309).

Most subjects (such as science, social studies and math) are taught in French. This may vary from school to school.

**Intermediate Plus**  
by the end of Grade 12

### High School

In Grades 9 and 10, French is compulsory for all students in all programs. In English Prime, Post-Intensive French is offered in Grades 9 to 12. Some students may choose additional courses in French. In Immersion, students have 50% of courses in French in Grades 9 and 10, and 25% in Grades 11 and 12.



## Oral Proficiency Targets

### Intermediate

The student is able to satisfy routine social demands and limited requirements in school/work settings with a speaking vocabulary sufficient for simple conversation, with some paraphrasing.

The student can:

- provide information and give explanations with some degree of accuracy;
- handle most common social situations, including introductions and casual conversations about events in school and community;
- provide autobiographical information in some detail;
- give directions from one place to another; and
- give accurate instructions in a field of personal expertise.

### Intermediate Plus

The student is able to satisfy the requirements of a broad variety of everyday, school, and work situations, often showing a significant degree of fluency and ease in speaking.

The student can:

- discuss concrete topics relating to special fields of competence as well as subjects of current public interest;
- start, maintain and end simple face-to-face conversations about familiar topics or personal interests; and
- compare and give opinions in a conversation.

### Advanced

The student is able to speak the language fluently with good control of grammar and with sufficient structural accuracy and vocabulary to participate effectively in most formal, and in all informal conversations, on practical, social, and academic or work-related topics.

The student can:

- describe in detail and narrate accurately;
- discuss abstract topics and ideas as well as events; and
- support opinions and hypothesize.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if parents cannot speak French?

There is no expectation that parents of students in any of the program options must be able to speak French. All program options are designed for children whose first language is not French.

### How can I help my child?

Parents can help by communicating regularly with their child's teachers. It is also valuable for parents to encourage their child to read and write in both English and French; to listen to French music, radio or television; and to speak to others in French when opportunities arise, such as in a store or restaurant.

### What if my child is having learning difficulties?

All children have the opportunity to learn their second official language. Program options can be adapted to address a full range of learners, including students on Personalized Learning Plans. Resource teachers, in consultation with teachers and parents, personalize programs based on student strengths to support optimum success in learning. It is felt that with appropriate accommodations, modifications and support, all students can achieve success.

### Will my child learn the same things as children in English classes?

The curriculum follows the guidelines of the NB Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Students work towards the same goals for all subjects regardless of language of instruction.

For more information or to view the video on program options, visit <http://www.gnb.ca/education>

