

Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interview FAQs

What is the purpose of the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency?

Oral proficiency interviews at Grade 12 are part of the New Brunswick Provincial Assessment Program. The main goal of the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency interview is to monitor student French second language proficiency as described on the [New Brunswick Oral Proficiency Scale](#). Results from this large-scale assessment will provide data to be analysed, identify trends, determine if oral proficiency targets are met, and be used to inform improvement efforts. Although the interview is not a test that provides scores used for classroom purposes, participating students will receive an oral proficiency certificate identifying student achievement level based on the [New Brunswick Oral Proficiency Scale](#).

What is the Oral Proficiency Interview?

Grade 12 French oral proficiency interviews consist of a one-on-one interview, lasting up to 30 minutes, conducted by an oral proficiency interviewer. Oral proficiency interviewers are typically retired educators who have worked with students for several years and have been trained as oral proficiency interviewer by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The interviewer will attempt to engage the student in a conversation. This conversation will provide the interviewer with sufficient information to determine the student's comfort level with the language and identify the French oral language proficiency level based on the [New Brunswick Oral Proficiency Scale](#). The interview is recorded for quality control purposes; although sensitive topics are avoided, information disclosed during the interview is kept confidential, following privacy and student safety policies and guidelines.

Can students prepare for the assessment?

Students cannot study to prepare for the interview as they would for a traditional content-based test. There is no specific content covered during the interview; in fact, every interview is different, as the goal of the interviewer is to draw out students' language skills acquired throughout previous months and years of practice using the second language. However, a balanced French second language literacy program that includes all language competencies, authentic and relevant activities, along with continuous feedback using formative assessment practices will better ensure students achieve desired language proficiency goals.

Students should be properly informed and reassured about the interview process prior to the interview. Students should be encouraged to answer questions as completely as possible and attempt to engage in the conversation to the best of their ability. Many schools prepare students in the same manner students are prepared for a work placement interview, advising them to consider this as a formal event to be taken seriously.

During the interview, students may be asked to present their views or take a position on a given topic; the student may then be urged to further defend their position. Students should be reassured that it is not their opinion that is assessed; rather, it is their ability to defend their position and express themselves in the second language.

Teachers who teach French (at any given grade levels) are encouraged to be familiar with the oral proficiency scale and provide students with the opportunity to use the French language in a

variety of communication activities that reflect descriptors described in the oral proficiency scale. Teachers are encouraged to share these descriptors with students as well as simulate interviews to ensure the interview experience is not new to the student.

Who will be interviewed?

Typically, any Grade 12 students enrolled in **any** course offered in French can participate in the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interview; this includes FSL courses such as a Post-Intensive French course, French Immersion Language Arts, Techniques de Communication, FI Writing, FI History, FI Math, FI Law, FSL online courses, Grade 11 FSL courses, etc. Students who have transferred from a Francophone school, students not in Grade 12, and students not enrolled in a French course who wish to participate can be included in the registration file, under the “Special Circumstance” category. Special Circumstance students may require District FSL Coordinator approval.

Is the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interview mandatory?

The Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interview is mandatory for all Grade 12 Post-Intensive French students registered in at least one French course while in Grade 11 or 12. It is also mandatory for all Grade 12 French Immersion students who have completed at least 5 French courses while in Grades 11 and 12. Although it is mandatory for these students only, other Grade 12 Anglophone students may participate in the oral proficiency interview in order to obtain their French oral proficiency certificate.

When do the interviews take place?

Grade 12 French oral proficiency interviews are conducted both semesters; from mid November to mid December during the first semester, and from early April until early May during the second semester. Students should be prepared for the interview prior to the first date identified in the timetable (early November or early April).

Can students be interviewed more than once?

Students may be evaluated **only once**: students evaluated during the first semester will not be interviewed in the spring or the following year.

How do students register for the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interview?

The Assessment, Analysis & Design Services Branch of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will contact High School administrators requesting that the registration document emailed to school administrators be completed and returned to the EECD designated person, as instructed in the registration email.

Who do I contact for more information regarding the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interview?

You may contact your District French Second Language Coordinator or your District Data and Accountability Supervisor, as well as Marc Vienneau (marc.vienneau3@gnb.ca), EECD French Second Language Learning Specialist.