



Adopted:2013-01-08

## POLICY IHAH

### Linguistic Policy on the use of French

The present policy is a requirement of the fourth measure of the Ministry of Education, Leisure, and Sports (henceforth referred to as MELS) Action Plan for the Improvement of French in Primary and Secondary Education. (Plan d'action pour l'amélioration du français à l'enseignement primaire et secondaire).

#### Context

The New Frontiers School Board is one of the nine English school boards in Quebec serving students in the youth, adult and vocational education sectors.

The Board's territory includes the City of Chateauguay and its surrounding municipalities, the entire area of the Chateauguay Valley to the American border including Mercier, Ste. Martine, Howick, Ormstown, Franklin, Huntingdon, and the area of Hemmingford and their surrounding municipalities, as well as Salaberry-de-Valleyfield and its surrounding municipalities.

The New Frontiers School Board offers a bilingual program to enable its students to graduate with fluency in both written and spoken French.

#### Challenges

The New Frontiers School Board's French programs must respond to the parameters of the Quebec Education Plan, while providing choices for parents and offering flexibility to meet the students' needs.

#### Laws, Rules, and Policies

The New Frontiers School Board is governed by Quebec legislation, including, among others:

- I. The Basic School Regulations (Régime pédagogique)
- II. The Charter of the French Language (La charte de la langue française)
- III. The Education Act (Loi sur l'instruction publique)
- IV. The MELS Action Plan for the Improvement of French in Primary and Secondary Education (Plan d'action pour l'amélioration du français à l'enseignement primaire et secondaire)
- V. The Québec Education Program (Programme de formation de l'école québécoise)

#### Local Measures

The New Frontiers Linguistic Policy is aligned with the provisions of other local documents such as:

- I. The New Frontiers School Board Strategic Plan
- II. The MELS-NFSB Partnership Agreement
- III. The Management and Educational Success Agreement (MESA) between the New Frontiers School Board and each of its schools and centres.

#### Directing Principles

##### Vision

The New Frontiers School Board will motivate its students to become life-long learners and empower them to become responsible, contributing members of society, applying their knowledge in order to adapt to a diverse and changing world.

##### Mission

To realize our Vision, our Mission is to: Provide experiences that will challenge our students to learn and to develop respect for themselves, others and the environment; Engage the students, parents, staff, and the community as educational partners; Encourage and support all employees to achieve excellence thereby enhancing student learning; Maintain a safe and healthy learning environment where everyone feels that they belong and are appreciated.

## **Aims**

The aims of the New Frontiers School Board are:

- To graduate students who are bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural by offering high quality French programs to all students.
- To support schools in increasing student exposure to the French language through French cultural, extracurricular, and daycare activities in keeping with the New Frontiers School Board Strategic Plan.
- To prioritize the progression of the acquisition of spoken French at the high school level.
- To ensure that the New Frontiers School Board's French language objectives are implemented by the Board's Adult Education and Vocational training centres in order to enhance the students' chances to succeed in the work force.
- To work towards ensuring that all French teachers are qualified so as to support a high quality of French instruction in all schools and centres.
- To continue to offer French language courses, through our Adult Education Department, to all employee groups, to facilitate the upgrading of their French language skills.
- To adhere to the Partnership agreement between the MELS and the NFSB aiming to improve English and French language skills.
- To offer programs throughout the New Frontiers School Board, within the parameters of the Quebec Education Plan, that provide choices for parents and offer flexibility to fit the students' needs.

## **Actions and Monitoring**

The New Frontiers School Board will continue to pursue and monitor the aims previously described and will continue to use all pedagogical tools necessary to evaluate the level of French of its students.

Professional development activities and specific projects aimed at increasing the enjoyment of French literacy and culture will continue to be offered by the Educational Services Department.

## **Communication**

- Written communication with the government is in French.
- Written communication with the staff is in English or in French by request of the employee.
- All written news and information is distributed in both English and French, wherever possible and within the constraints of staff capacity.
- Written communication with parents regarding the progress of their child is in English or in French by request of the parent.
- The Linguistic Policy will be part of the Register of Policies, Procedures and By-Laws available on the internet for the public, in both English and French.

\* In reference to article 28 of the charter of the French Language, all pedagogical written communication, (i.e. Vision newspaper, student newsletters), will be produced in the language of the subject being taught.

## **Application**

The policy applies to all students and staff within the New Frontiers School Board.

## **Responsibility**

The Council of Commissioners is responsible for the adoption of the policy and the administration of the School Board is responsible for the application of the policy.