

French Second Language and French Immersion Fact Sheet

1. Any “authentic, immersive, language-rich FSL learning program”¹ (p. 35) must be based on the six pillars (frequency, intensity of time, extensiveness of time, meaningful communication, motivation, teacher effectiveness, Dicks, 2021) for it to be successful in developing proficient users of French.
2. Early French immersion (K or Grade 1 entry) fully subscribes to the six pillars.
3. Early immersion is the only evidence-based program that has proven longitudinal results in developing proficient users of French.
4. Early French immersion teachers are trained to provide language-rich, engaging, and inclusive immersive environments .
5. 98.7% of Grade 12 French immersion students (Grade 3 entry) assessed in 2021 achieved a minimum of *Intermediate* level of French² (67.5% achieved *Intermediate Plus* or above).
6. There is no evidence that French immersion students are not able to learn mathematics and science in French.
7. Learning to be literate and proficient in a second or additional language requires motivation, persistence, and consistent intensive exposure and use over long periods of time (a life-long endeavour).
8. Language is a tool for communication (spoken and written) and intercultural connection.
9. Immersion programs focus on building language proficiency while also equipping learners with academic and life skills in their second language.
10. In order to develop proficiency in speaking, especially with respect to vocabulary development, language users must learn to read, write, and view.

¹ 2021 *Review of the Official Languages Act of New Brunswick: Report on Second Language Learning*

² It is noteworthy that these students began their immersion program in Grade 3 and that these results were achieved during the 2020-21 school year when school was closed for both a labour action and the Pandemic. Previous results for Grade 1 entry were consistently higher (e.g., In 2018-19, 100% were at the *intermediate* level or above and 84.2% were at *Intermediate Plus* or above).