

## **PROGRAM DELIVERY STRUCTURE: Intensive French, Pre-intensive French, Post-Intensive French**

**Intensive French:** Research on the application of the NLA in Grade 5 or Grade 6 indicates that, during the implementation year of the program, there must be **one semester** during which students spend **at least 300 hours** in acquiring language in an intensive manner. During the semester that precedes or follows the intensive one, students begin or continue acquiring language over a minimum of 45 hours (depending on school schedule) in blocks of at least 50 minutes each (three blocks per week for about 18 weeks) or 75-minute blocks (twice a week for about 18 weeks). Research has also indicated that grades 5 and 6, (students aged between 10 and 12) represent the optimal grade levels for the NLA to succeed in an intensive context, as the maturity of the learner's brain is a factor that must be taken into account.

A number of school administrations offer a **pre-Intensive French** during the year that precedes entry into the Intensive French program. In this case, students participate in learning activities over 90 hours during the school year. While the hours are scheduled differently, participation is always scheduled in blocks of concentrated time. The activities provide students with opportunities to understand the expectations that they will face once they enter the intensive program.

As for **post-Intensive French**, students continue to develop their second-language skills by participating in at least 200 minutes per week of second-language activities, building on the strengths acquired during the previous intensive program. Classes may be delivered, for example, in two 100-minute blocks per week, or in two 75-minute blocks one week and three 75-minute blocks the next. It is possible to consider holding four 50-minute classes per week, but reducing the number of minutes per class to below 50 is not recommended. There is simply not enough time for use of the language for the students to develop implicit grammatical competence, essential for using the language spontaneously. In all cases, however, the strategies proposed by the NLA must be applied and the guides developed for post-Intensive French must be used.

The following table provides a summary of time allocation for the programs.

Program	School Year	Minimum Recommended Time
Pre-Intensive French	Grade 4 or Grade 5	150 minutes (3 blocks of 50 minutes, or 2 blocks of 75 minutes).
Intensive French	Grade 5 or Grade 6	<p>300 hours per intensive semester.</p> <p>Non-intensive semester: 150 minutes per week (3 blocks of 50 minutes, or 2 blocks of 75 minutes).</p>
Post-Intensive French	School years that follow the year in which students participated in Intensive French.	200 minutes per week through the whole school year. Time may be divided in four 50-minute blocks per week, or two 75-minute blocks one week, three 75-minute blocks the next, or any other division of time that respects the need to maintain a minimum of 50 minutes per block.