

# **Overview of the New Brunswick–Québec Student Exchange Program**

## **Program Description**

The New Brunswick-Québec Student Exchange Program is a reciprocal exchange program that has operated in New Brunswick for a number of years. Francophone students from Québec live with New Brunswick families for three months in the fall and attend New Brunswick high schools. Later in the school year, students from New Brunswick live with Québec families for three months and attend Québec high schools.

The 2015-2016 school year will mark the 28<sup>th</sup> year New Brunswick has participated in this program. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to enhance their language abilities, develop self-confidence and discover Francophone culture firsthand.

The program is available to New Brunswick high school students who will be in Grades 10 or 11 during the 2015-16 academic year (current Grade 9 and 10 students) and, who are at the time of application, enrolled in Post-Intensive French or French Immersion. Application to participate is made in Grades 9 and 10 and participation occurs in Grade 10 or 11 during the next academic year.

In any given year, there are a limited number of places for New Brunswick students in this program. Applications from individual students are not considered without school and school district involvement and support.

## **Eligibility Guidelines**

The program is designed to give the participating student an opportunity to:

1. improve his/her knowledge of French as a second language;
2. learn about the Québec culture;
3. experience a new school system; and
4. experience personal growth in areas such as social skills and independence.

To be eligible to apply for this exchange program, students must:

- be enrolled in a French Second Language Program (either Post-Intensive French or French immersion);
- have good academic achievement and participate actively in the New Brunswick school system;
- be flexible and open to new experiences and a new culture;
- be well-motivated to participate in this type of learning activity;
- have parental, school and school district support; and
- be recommended by the liaison teacher.

A \$250 student participation fee is required if a suitable twin is found. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development covers travel expenses between the two provinces. There should be no additional school expenses in Quebec. However, if a participating student insists on returning home before the end of the exchange period, for a reason unacceptable to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (i.e.,

home-sickness, inability to adapt) or is requested to do so by the Department for a variety of reasons (e.g., use of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants, or difficulty with the law), parents or guardians are responsible for the additional inter-provincial travel costs.

## **Application Process**

Students must complete the electronic application and print it, or print the form and complete it in black ink. Once the **Student Application** is completed, the form must be returned to the school principal for processing by **March 31, 2015**. After reviewing the application and deciding if it is favourable, the school principal or designate (FSL SPR or teacher) arranges for an interview to be conducted by the FSL SPR or teacher.

Interview Schedules, as well as support documents for New Brunswick–Québec Student Exchange Program, can be accessed on the portal at the following URL address: <https://portal.nbed.nb.ca/tr/lp/special/French/Pages/default.aspx>. The student is initially interviewed at the school. Following this, interviews are conducted in the student's home. Once the interviewer has completed all the interviews, he/she will submit the Interview Schedule to the school principal. The school principal is asked to sign both forms (**Student Application and Interview Schedule**) on behalf of the school and to forward the forms **by April 15, 2015** to the District FSL Subject Area Coordinator for the completion of the process.

It is essential that the application form be accurate, complete and legible. Typed application forms are preferred. Interview schedules completed during the home visit must accompany the application.

The FSL Learning Specialist is asked review the documents, sign the Interview Schedule document, and present the document to the District Superintendent or Director of Education for their approval and signature.

The **original documents (signed) and scanned** and then forwarded to Fiona Cogswell, the Provincial Coordinator, **by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**.

If you have any questions or require further information, you may contact Fiona at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development ([Fiona.cogswell@gnb.ca](mailto:Fiona.cogswell@gnb.ca) or (506) 444-4916.