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What is an OPI?

OPI is an *oral proficiency interview* in your additional language. It is a certification of French oral language abilities and is coordinated by the Regional Centres for Education and supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

OPI has four levels: Basic (A1-A2), Intermediate (B1), Advanced(B2) and Superior (C1) – Level A represents beginner abilities in French, Level B represents independent abilities, and Level C represents proficient abilities.

The OPI measures a student’s ability to speak and communicate orally in French.

Who has the option to have an OPI this year?

Students who are both in grade 12 in Nova Scotia public schools and enrolled in a French second-language (French immersion, Integrated French, Core French) or IB Diploma (French SL/HL) program are eligible to take an OPI. Participation is optional. We encourage all eligible students to express their interest in taking an OPI with their schools designated grade 12 French second language teacher. No fees are charged.

To participate, students must express interest to their school’s designated French second language teacher at the beginning of the school term/ semester.

What are the benefits of earning an OPI certificate?

It is an official recognition of your oral French proficiency and a testament to your success in learning French.

The official certificate enhances your school or professional portfolio.

Do I have to do an OPI?

You choose to participate.

The OPI is not a requirement for the grade 12 high school graduation certificate.

The OPI is not a requirement for the grade 12 French Immersion or Integrate French program certificates.

When and where does the OPI take place?

Your school's designated French second-language teacher will determine interview dates and times. You will be informed of the exact date and time of your oral interview by your school's designated French second-language teacher.

How do I register for the OPI?

Speak with your designated French second-language teacher.

How do I prepare for the OPI?

You can visit our EECD support site to explore bilingualism and what factors determine our level of bilingualism. This site is continuously evolving as we develop more resources. Engaging in conversations in French regularly with your peers and other French speakers will also help to prepare you for the interview.

Who administers the OPI?

Classroom teachers or other teachers in the Regional Centers for Education administer the OPI. Training is available to support uniform standards of interview protocols.

How and when do I receive my OPI certificate?

You can expect to get your **official statement** of OPI level several weeks after your OPI interview. Your school's designated French second-language teacher will share your official OPI level with you.

You can expect your **certificate** from EECD upon graduation.

Is OPI testing offered anywhere else in Nova Scotia?

Yes. All schools in Nova Scotia offer OPI testing for grade 12 students. You can visit our EECD support site for more information. This site is continuously evolving as we develop more resources.