

# DELFFrequently Asked Questions

*for parents, students, and schools*

## Will you take the DELF exam?

### About DELF

DELFF is a Diploma in French Language Studies – *Diplôme d'études de la langue française*. It is a certification of French language abilities organized and regulated by the National Ministry of Education of France.

DELFF has four levels for school-aged students: A1, A2, B1 and B2 – Level A represents basic abilities in French, and Level B represents intermediate abilities.

Each DELFF exam is made up of four different tests. The tests measure a student's ability to understand, speak, read, and write French.

### About taking the DELFF exam in grade 12

Nova Scotia's Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) is an accredited DELFF exam centre.

We offer the A2, B1, and B2 levels of DELFF scolaire (school), a version of the exam aimed at secondary school aged learners. We follow specified procedures to ensure consistency in exam administration.

Students who are both in grade 12 in Nova Scotia public schools and officially enrolled in a French second-language program are eligible to write the DELFF. Participation is optional. We encourage all eligible students to express their interest in taking the DELFF exam. No fees are charged.

To participate, students **must** express their interest to their school's DELFF liaison teacher at the beginning of the school year – this is the only opportunity to get invited to the exam. No exceptions.

## Benefits of earning a DELF diploma

- It is an international recognition of your French proficiency and a testament to your success in learning French.
- The official diploma enhances your school or professional portfolio.
- A B2 level diploma may enable you to bypass a French language placement test or an introductory French course at some post-secondary institutions.

## Who can participate in our testing sessions

Grade 12 students in Nova Scotia public schools who are officially enrolled in a French second-language program, including students in French Immersion, Integrated French, and Core French.

If you are in an International Baccalaureate (IB) program but not in a French second language program, you may write the DELF in a separate testing session. Contact your school IB coordinator for more information.

If you have diagnosed, documented learning needs, speak with your school's DELF liaison teacher about your needs. Accommodations may be made to the extent possible within the parameters of testing conditions set out by the DELF governing body in France.

## DELF exams are optional

You choose to participate. You choose the level of exam you wish to write.

The DELF exam is not connected to the grade 12 high school graduation certificate.

The DELF exam is not connected to the grade 12 French Immersion or Integrated French program certificates.

## When and where DELF testing takes place

Your school's testing dates will be in either November or April – the DELF governing body in France sets the exam dates and your school board assigns a testing session to your school. You will be informed of the exact dates and testing site address by your school's DELF liaison teacher.

You must attend the testing session assigned to your school – you **cannot** choose an alternate date or testing site.

Transportation to and from the testing site is your responsibility.

## How to register for DELF testing

1. Get your name on the list of interested students at the **beginning of the school year** – each school has a designated DELF liaison teacher. Give that teacher your name and email address.
2. Expect an email invitation to register in the month before your school's testing date – you can expect this in either October or March, depending on your school's testing session date.
3. Open the personalized link you get by email and follow the instructions – this link is smartphone-friendly and accessible 24 hours a day during the registration period.
4. Submit your completed registration form by the registration deadline – deadlines are firm. No exceptions.

## How to prepare for the exam

Talk to your school DELF liaison teacher. They will share ideas on how best to prepare for the DELF exam and how to choose an appropriate level of testing. You can find websites and other online tools for individual practice and study.

## What is the pass mark for DELF?

Each exam has four tests. Each test is worth 25 points.

To earn a diploma, you must meet two criteria:

- achieve a mark of at least 5/25 on each of the four tests
- achieve a total mark of at least 50% (50/100 points)

## What happens if I'm late for the exam?

For group tests – listening, reading, and writing tests – you lose the opportunity to complete the exam. Once the test has begun, no late students are admitted to the exam room.

For individual oral tests,

- If you arrive late for your scheduled time in the exam preparation room, you may use the time remaining to prepare. No extra time can be given.
- If you arrive late for your scheduled oral test time, you lose the opportunity to complete the exam.

## What happens if I miss one or more of the exam tests?

You do not earn a DELF diploma. No exceptions. No rescheduling.

## Who marks the DELF exams?

Trained local DELF assessors mark the DELF exams. They are certified by the DELF governing body in France to ensure uniform standards of exam assessment worldwide.

## How and when do students receive their marks and their diploma?

Official statement of marks: You can expect to get your marks about 8 weeks after the testing session. Marks are sent to us at the EECD DELF exam centre. We send them to the DELF liaison teacher at each school, who distributes them to individual students.

Diplomas: You can expect your diploma within 6 months. Diplomas are printed in France by the DELF governing body and sent to us at the EECD DELF exam centre. We mail diplomas directly to students.

## Is DELF testing offered anywhere else in Nova Scotia?

Yes. The Alliance Française (AF) Halifax is an accredited independent DELF exam centre located in downtown Halifax. Further information is available on their website: [www.afhfx.ca](http://www.afhfx.ca)

## More information about DELF

General information: <http://www.ciep.fr/en/delf-dalf>

DELF in Canada: <http://delf-dalf.ambafrance-ca.org/>

DELF in Nova Scotia: <https://fsl.ednet.ns.ca/content/delf>