

Enduring Ideas of the Revised French as a Second Language Curriculum

As shown in this visual, all three FSL programs are based on the same Vision, goals and Enduring ideas. This presentation will look at the Enduring Ideas in more detail.

The first Enduring Idea of the revised FSL Curriculum is Authentic Oral Communication: Reception, Production and Interaction.

Research shows that authentic oral communication is key to the acquisition of language. It is important to note that the main purpose of language is to communicate. Therefore, there is an emphasis on the communication of ideas, information and opinions. It is important that we give students many opportunities to hear and speak French so that they can develop their communication and literacy skills. Communication is a social act, so students need to interact in the language to develop their language skills and strategies. Action-oriented and communicative approaches to teaching languages put meaningful and authentic communication at the centre of all language learning activities. Students need to have comprehensible input which means that there needs to be linguistic stimuli, either oral or written, that a teacher or other students provide to students that is relevant, meaningful, and most importantly, understandable. In order to communicate in a language, students need to hear and use it to communicate their thoughts, opinions and ideas.

Some of the key characteristics of the action-oriented and communicative approaches are:

- focus on meaning over form;
- emphasis on meaningful, interactive activities;
- Centering on communicative language needs; and
- Highlighting authentic tasks, when possible, within the context of a classroom environment.

In the revised FSL curriculum there is an increased focus on meaningful interaction and the introduction and use of interaction strategies in both Listening and Speaking.

The Overall Expectations for Listening and Speaking focus on the skills and strategies needed to be effective communicators:

- Listening Comprehension
- Listening to Interact
- Intercultural Understanding
- Speaking to Communicate
- Speaking to Interact and
- Intercultural Understanding

Students should be involved in a variety of interactions in the classroom in order to practise and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of French. In FSL classrooms students should have opportunities to participate in the following interactions:

- Students in partners
- Students with small groups
- Students with class
- Teacher with individual students
- Teacher with small groups and
- Teacher with class

This will enable students to develop the confidence and skills to communicate in French with each other, their teachers, and with French-speaking people they should encounter outside of the classroom.