

# WASC MID-CYCLE PROGRESS REPORT

# **EFBA**

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Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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## I: School Description

EFBA is a California-based nonprofit, recognized by the Internal Revenue Services. It is also a youth organization acknowledged by the CA Department of Justice and a part-time school accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. As an educational organization, we aim to provide high quality multicultural francophone education to our students, excellent training and professional development to our employees and volunteers, and top of the line instructional materials; including our very own pedagogical curriculum, French language textbooks, teachers guides and audio files.

EFBA offers group and online French courses to students K-5, as well as online courses for students 6-12. Group courses are offered with two tracks, one for francophone students and one for students for whom French is a second language (FSL). Courses cover the four basic productive and receptive skills: Speaking, listening, reading and writing. They also include level-appropriate grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural instruction. Thematic courses, such as French through Art or Math Games, are sometimes offered, based on enrollment. Private and semi-private lessons are available upon request. During the 2023-2024 academic year, EFBA provided French language instruction to more than 150 students in group classes and upwards of 40 students in private lessons.

Our vision is a world in which all children grow up multilingual and multicultural to live in peace, be their best self and protect the environment. In order to realize this vision, EFBA is committed to inclusion: We respect the dignity and well-being of each child by creating a respectful and positive environment in which each child can find his/her/their place and reach his/her/their full potential. We provide an inclusive and welcome environment to the children and adults who participate in our programs, their families, our employees, staff members, and volunteers

It is particularly important for us to provide access to our programs for all children. Living together, accepting and respecting differences, and enriching the community through diversity are all part of our mission. We are committed to welcoming all children, regardless of ability, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, age, cultural, racial, ethnic or national origin, social origin, opinions or beliefs. We value and respect the entire Francophone world and beyond.

EFBA also strives to make our programs accessible to families from all economic backgrounds. Recognizing that financial barriers can prevent children from accessing quality language education, EFBA offers scholarships and financial aid to ensure inclusivity. Children who cannot afford other language programs still have the opportunity to learn and grow with EFBA.

# II: Significant Changes and Developments

#### Online classes

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, EFBA offered in-person instruction only. However, the pandemic forced the organization to pivot to an online instructional model. EFBA staff and teachers took advantage of platforms and tools such as Google Classroom, Zoom and Google Meet to continue offering high-quality instruction in an online format. This model was extended to Summer Camps as well.

When in-person instruction became available again, EFBA Leadership decided to continue offering online group courses and private lessons for grades K-12. The online model serves the needs of families:

☐ Located where in-person French language instruction is not available
☐ Whose schedules conflict with in-person course schedules
☐ Whose children's levels are not offered at their local in-person EFBA site
☐ Whose children have aged out of K-5 in-person classes

By continuing to offer online courses, EFBA has also been able to expand access to French to middle and high school students, whose local EFBA site may not offer age-appropriate classes, as well as tap into a more diverse teacher population, as qualified and experienced instructors can be located anywhere around the world. Finally, online courses have allowed EFBA to recruit the critical mass necessary to offer thematic courses such as Oceanography in French and Cooking in French.

#### **Private lessons**

The pivot to online courses has allowed EFBA to offer private and semi-private lessons. This allows the organization to serve the needs of families:

Who require more flexibility in terms of schedules

Whose children have specific academic goals

☐ Whose children have learning differences, in order to provide supportive and individualized alternative to group classes

Private and semi-private lessons also provide more work opportunities for EFBA instructors, on schedules that are convenient for them.

## **Hybrid classes**

To offer maximum flexibility to families whose schedules require it, EFBA now offers a hybrid program. Students attend in-person group classes once a week (instead of twice) and the second lesson is delivered in a private lesson format via Zoom on a fixed schedule that works for the family.

The hybrid program also provides additional work opportunities for EFBA instructors.

### **In-person Site Selection**

Every year, EFBA gives careful thought to in-person site selection, with the goal of offering robust, high-quality programming to families and building a solid, long-term francophone and francophile community at each. At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, EFBA was offering or planning to offer in-person programs at 18 sites:

- Belmont / San Carlos
- Berkeley
- Burlingame
- Half Moon Bay
- Kensington
- Livermore
- Marin
- Menlo Park
- Mountain View
- Oakland
- Palo Alto
- Portola Valley
- Redwood City
- San Jose
- San Ramon
- San Francisco (Panhandle)
- San Francisco (Noe Valley)
- Milpitas

The return to in-person programming in 2021-2022 post-pandemic gave EFBA Leadership an opportunity to carefully consider which in-person sites were reaching the organization's goals, and it was determined that a slow-yet-steady approach to reopening in-person sites would be best for the organization's needs long-term. Therefore, the 2021-2022 academic year saw the reopening of three sites:

- Belmont
- Berkeley
- Mountain View

The 2022-2023 academic year saw the reopening of an additional site in:

• San Ramon

The 2023-2024 academic year saw the reopening of additional sites in:

- San Francisco
- Walnut Creek

For the 2024-2025 academic year, the following in-person sites are scheduled to open (depending on enrollment):

- Alameda
- Belmont
- Berkeley

- Fremont
- Livermore
- Menlo Park
- Mountain View
- San Francisco
- San Ramon
- Walnut Creek

#### **Cultural Activities**

In 2020, the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the acceleration of our project to launch online cultural activities, and to offer cultural activities to a broader audience. Prior to this, we had already recognized the challenges faced by some families in accessing bilingual education and cultural events, particularly those residing outside major cities. The imperative to engage in activities while confined at home further underscored the necessity for innovative solutions.

Our response involved the introduction of various cultural initiatives, such as virtual exhibition tours featuring guides situated within museums, musical activities, and online escape games centered around historical elements linked to the Francophone world. Traditionally, families in San Francisco constituted the primary participants in our events. With the shift to online activities, children from across the Bay Area, as well as from other states and different countries, gained access to playful and educational enjoyable experiences that promoted French language and cultures. This not only broadened our reach, but also fueled a heightened interest in learning the French language.

#### **IT Department Creation**

The transition to online learning during the pandemic made the education community extremely vulnerable to cyber attacks. On a daily basis we deal with teachers, young students and parents who often have little to no training in how to protect themselves online.

Cyber attacks in schools can have devastating consequences, ranging from disrupting the education; exposing sensitive personal information of students, teachers, staff, donors and volunteers; and leading to very high recovery costs - which most k-12 schools are likely not be able to afford. But even more concerning than the potential cost are breaches where student safety is compromised. Having students as young as 4 years old enrolled in EFBA programs, this is a constant concern.

In 2020 EFBA created an IT department, and now systems are in place to assess network security, safely creating and monitoring students and teachers accounts, educating staff on potential cybersecurity threats and ways to minimize vulnerability, and conducting audit controls to provide regulatory and system compliance. Even with EFBA's limited nonprofit budget, resources are invested in deepening understanding of potential future threats, as well as developing more robust options for service.

# III: Engagement of Educational Partners in Continuous School Improvement

Based on the findings in our latest Focus on Learning report in 2020, EFBA has identified a schoolwide action plan which is monitored closely by EFBA leadership and the administrative staff, and adjusted as organizational needs fluctuate. For example, the Covid-19 pandemic represented a significant disruption in EFBA's traditional delivery model and available resources. EFBA Leadership has made corresponding adjustments to the schoolwide action plan, reorganizing priorities and shifting human and financial resource investments.

The greater EFBA community is also involved in the realization of the schoolwide action plan. Instructors are involved in relevant moments, such as providing feedback on new resources for DELF exam preparation or reporting back on student performance on placement and exit assessments. Student and family input and feedback is requested via surveys, parent/teacher conferences, and meetings between families and administrators.

With regard to preparing the progress report, EFBA firmly believes in the power of teamwork to complete a task, as well as the invaluable learning opportunities available in training across departments. To prepare this progress report, EFBA made every effort to involve all members of every department.

- First, department heads were assigned to write a specific section in their field of expertise.
- Second, team members with knowledge of the aforementioned departments were asked to review and leave comments and questions, to which department heads responded.
- Third, new team members and members of other departments were asked to read each section to review for clarity and coherence.
- Fourth, the final version of the report was shared with instructors.
- Finally, the report was posted on the EFBA website for the benefit of the entire EFBA community.

## IV: Progress on the Implementation of the Schoolwide Action Plan

Our schoolwide action plan indicated three overarching areas for improvement based on three critical learner needs:

- 1. Students need more exposure to the French language outside of the classroom and opportunity for extra practice
- 2. Students need to connect with the language on a personal level for best results and engagement
- 3. Students need opportunities to develop strategic thinking and leadership skills.

## Improve data collection and analysis related to students

In the 2020 self-study, it was found that feedback from students and families is not consistently collected. Therefore, a survey schedule has been created to obtain feedback from families at several points during the year. Results are shared with the administrative team and the instructors after compilation. In this way, issues can be identified and addressed on an organizational, departmental and individual level.

In 2020, it was found that no robust data was found on students' achievements. Starting in the 2022-2023 academic year, EFBA began assessing student achievement and progress using the DELF exam, an external, internationally recognized standardized test of the French language for children and teens. In 2022-2023, 20 students were tested at 5 levels. In 2023-2024, 24 students were tested at 7 levels. The results of the exam are shared with instructors and families, and used to inform EFBA's choice of resources and methods for the following academic year.

In previous self-study, it was found that there was no plan to capture data on how to understand students' performance plan & progression findings. Therefore, EFBA has instituted a system by which teachers can enter student placement and exit assessment evaluations and comments, in addition to keeping a repository for biannual report cards. This allows instructors to track student progress over the course of their years in the program.

Finally, it was found in the 2020 self-study that EFBA could improve its understanding of the impact of the Afterschool program on its students. This has been difficult to accomplish, since data collected by the Academic Director is merely anecdotal. For example, a former EFBA student who completed the program was later hired as a Teacher Assistant at the site in Mountain View; or, a former EFBA student who moved to France successfully integrated into the French school system, thanks to the EFBA program. However, more can be done to systematically track these results by creating a "Where are they now?" survey for former families.

#### Improve ways to address student needs / students' underperformance

It was found that there was no means to ensure EFBA curricula are based on the most current research and resources. A curricular review policy was developed, but limited human and financial resources have limited EFBA's ability to review the curriculum every year, as per the policy. The timeline has been deemed too ambitious for current budgetary resources, and will be adjusted to a less frequent review.

It was found that there was capacity to increase documentation and resources available to staff when dealing with struggling or underperforming students. It was also found that there was poor documentation on how to assist students who require specific accommodations or who have specific needs. Measures have been taken to improve EFBA's support of these students. These include, but are not limited to, increased frequency of parent/teacher conferences to lines of communication open, coordinating with the student's daytime school instructors to provide instructional consistency, reviewing students' IEPs with EFBA instructors (where an IEP exists), providing additional training to teachers (such as how to work with students with ADHD), and hiring support staff (such as Teacher Assistants) to provide additional help in class for students with learning differences. Finally, the addition of the online private lesson format affords students an opportunity to have additional tutoring, if necessary, or an alternative lesson format, if group instruction is not the best fit for them.

## Improve resource planning and budgeting to best suit student needs

It was deemed important to provide annual training on budgeting to staff involved. This has been challenging to implement, given the financial uncertainty provoked by the pandemic. Additional training opportunities have been focused on instructors instead of administrators, taking into account a limited budget. Resources are scarce, so EFBA Leadership is constantly evaluating priorities and reallocating funds in order to optimize usage. By adding new stakeholders such as department heads to a more transparent budget development process, staff are more engaged in the process and have a vested interest in managing resources widely.

# V: Revised Schoolwide Action Plan

Find the revised schoolwide action plan on the next page of this document.

REVISED ACTION F	PLAN - MAY 2024	ACTION PLAN - FEBRUARY 2020 (for reference)	MID-CYCLE REPORT FINDINGS	REVISED ACTION PLAN - MAY 2024	CLN	WHO	WHEN	REPORT	FOLLOW UP	OTHER
Statement of area for		Specific steps, including professional development	Specific steps, including professional development	Specific steps, including professional development	☐ Link to one or more critical learner		WHEN ☐ Timeline	Means to     Means to	Follow-up process	
improvement that is student-focused					needs and learner outcomes	responsible and involved		monitor and report progress	improvement)	
IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS RELATED TO STUDENTS	Feedback from parents and students is not consistently collected.	Regularly collect feedback from students and parents 1: Create a Data Analyst position 2: Create survey for parents that include questions on students progression and teacher performance 3: Set up survey calendar and deadlines to receive responses 4: Collect and analyse data and trend based on survey results and identify area of improvement at the end of the school year.	STATUS: Objective met!  1. Data analyst position created viole description with specific tasks and responsibilities. Role hypically designated to a volunteer, but in the labsence of a volunteer. Program Director assumes the responsibility.  2. Blannual survey created to collect feedback from families on student progression and feedback on teachers.  3. Survey conducted twice a year (once in the fall, once in the spring).  4. Data compiled and analyzed by administrative team and shared with academic team. Where trends indicate a need for professional development: sessions organized.	Continue to regularly collect feedback from students and parents 1 Maritain a Volunteer in Data Analyst role so that responsibility does not fall back on Academic Director 2-Continue revising family feedback survey to ask more effective questions 3-Regularly conduct feedback survey 4-Continue to collect and analyze data and trends. 5-Continue to use data to inform professional development session selection	Critical learning need #2: Students need to connect with the language on a personal level for best results and engagement.	Faculty Staff Academic Director Data Analyst	Ongoing	Biannual survey and subsequent analysis	Check in twice a year	
	No robust data is collected on students achievements	Collect robust data on students achievements Category & futured nachievement by making DELF POAL Feats be made mandatory for all EFBA Afferschool students.  1 Beruit DELF/DALF director  2. Create calendar session for AS 2020/2021 school year and locations and locations for AS 2020/2021 school year and locations to families about the mandatory test  4. Keep repository of feet grades per level  5. Analyze students performance after tests	1. DELF Coordinator position created but lack of sufficient funds does not permit the organization to keep a DELF Coordinator on staff. Role is seasonal, and falls back on the Academic Director if funds are lacking / 5 First DELF lead of the control of the Control of December 2022 trock letter, followed by official exam in April 2023 Subsequent exams offered every spring in April 629 of Telephone 2022 trock letter, followed by a manufactory participation has been demend unnecessary Families may manufactory participation has been demend unnecessary Families may 4. Repository of DELF results created.  5. Student performance post-sets analyzed and shared with instructors.	Continue to effer DELF test annually.  I continue to hire seasonally for a DELF Coordinator, if funds permit  2. Offer the DELF test every April.  3. Continue to communicate with families about the exam  4. Continue to maintain records of exam results  5. Continue to analyze participant progress post-test		DELF Coordinator Academic Director Faculty		Once year (June, when test results are released)	orientation for families January - families register for test April - DELF test June - follow-up with faculty and families when results released	DELF Coordinator role
	No plan to capture data on how to understand student's performance plan & progression findings	Collect data from placement tests, from report cards and exit test per students     Analyze data from student evaluations and identify needs	STATUS: Objective met!  1. Placement tests, exil assessment results and report cards systematically collected and saved.  2. Student evaluation data analyzed and used to identify knowledge gaps, inform future course selections and choice of learning resources	Continue to collect information on student progress and performance. 1.B y means of placement tests, exit assessments and report cards 2.By analyzing the records above and using them to inform each students' academic plan		Academic Director Faculty		September - placement test December / January - report cards April - exit assessment May - report cards	Schedule meetings with faculty / families as needed	Continue to build administrative hours into the budget for teachers to complete these tasks
	Low understanding of the the impact of the EFBA Afterschool program on its students	Set up a policy and procedure for systematic follow-up studies.	STATUS: Objective in progress.  1. Academic team anecdotally collecting feedback on program impact, but no policy and procedure for systematic follow-up studies has been developed.	Develop a policy and procedure for systematic follow-up studies to measure program impact.  1. Design a "Where are they now?" survey to send to families whose children have completed the EFBA program		Academic Director Project Coordinator	First survey sent by August 2024	Frequency of survey TBA	Schedule follow-up as needed	
BETTER ADDRESS STUDENT NEEDS / STUDENT STUDENT UNDERPERFORMANCE	There is no means to ensure EFBA curricula are based on the most current research and resources	1/ Draft a policy to Review curricula policy each year 2/ Set-up the review process (who, how, calendar.) 3/ Implement the review process	STATUS : Objective in progress.  1. Policy for curricular review developed  2. Calendar for review developed  3. Review process begun, but funds ran out so project was put on hold	Implement curricular review policy with modified timeline 1. Revise current policy 2. Revise current calendar 3. Implement revised policy and restart the project	Critical learning need #2. Students need to connect with the language on a personal level for best results and engagement. Critical learning need #1. Students need more exposure to the French language outside of the classroom and opportunity for exits practice. Critical learning need #3. Students need opportunities to develop strategic thinking and learning learning need #3. Students need opportunities to develop strategic thinking and learning lear	Academic Director EFBA Leadership Faculty		Frequency of curricular review TBA	n/a	Continue to build administrative hours into the budget for teachers to participate
	There is capacity to increase documentation and resources available to staff when dealing with struggling or underperforming students	1/Identify situations where students are struggling or under-performing year forming 3/ develop guidelines to faculty staff to help addressing the issue 4/ set-up improvement plan for students 5/ implement guidelines and plan 6/ Develop extra learning tools for those students, to increase their level of retention thomework, Efb <sub>8</sub> Digital French, Virgule game)	daytime school) permits the team to better understand the reasons behind the student's challenges.	Continue to support struggling and under-performing students by  1 Training families to report issues and challenges in a timely manner  3. Working with all stakeholders to identify underlying reasons for underperformance. A Developing case-specific improvement plans personalized to suit students' needs  5. Implementing these improvement plans and monitoring their impact  6. Offering additional learning tools and opportunities as needed (such as hybrid lessons, tutoring / private lessons, etc.)	Critical learning need #2: Students need to connect with the language on a reconstruct with the language on a rengagement.  Critical learning need #1: Students need rengagement of the Ternah language outside of the classroom and opportunity for extra practice.  Critical learning need #3 Students need Critical learning need #3 Students need coporturnities to develop strategic thinking and leadership skills.	Academic Director EFBA Leadership Faculty		Annual review of guidelines for inclusion in Teacher's Manual	Teacher's Manual reviewed and re-released once a year (September)	build
	There is poor documentation on how to deal with students who require specific accommodations or who have specific needs	1/ Create a policy on student specific needs (identify and define specific needs, what needs can and cannot be specific needs, what needs can and cannot be needs)  2/ Create Process supporting policy 3/ Implement process		Better support students with learning differences / specific academic need continue to request that families report learning differences and special needs in advance val he registration form 2 Continue to share this information with leachers in advance 2 A more clearly define policy and procedure to include more specific information on the role of each stakeholder and their specific information on the role of each stakeholder and their specific information to make the providing student support.	Critical learning need #2: Students need to connect with the language on a personal level for best results and engagement. Critical learning need #2: Students need more exposure to the French language outside of the classroom and opportunity for extra practice		Policy / procedure reviewed by August 2024	e Annual review of policy/procedure for inclusion in Teacher's Manual		ı
IMPROVE RESOURCE PLANNING AND BUDGETING TO BETTER ADDRESS STUDENT NEEDS	Provide annual training on budgeting to staff involved	Assess interest among staff and determine those who need training  Research training opportunities	STATUS: Objective in progress  1. Interest among staff assessed, and two new staff members (Cultural Programs Director and Admissions Coordinator) added to team that develops annual budget  2. Training opportunities not researched  3. Book course not developed	Provide training on budgeting to department heads  1. Provide opportunities to contribute to budgeting process to relevant stakeholders  2. Provide hands-on internal training developed by qualified and experienced staff	Critical learning need #2: Students need to connect with the language on a personal level for best results and engagement	Academic Director EFBA Leadership Staff	First review of 2024-2025 budget completed by August 2024	Annual budget completed each year (August)	n/a	
	Optimize the Resource Planning Process	Book course (preferably free, probono or barter) Determine the cost and duration of the needed resources across the entire program. Use resource forecast techniques and tools. Research project management software to assist with creating an optimized resource plan. Decide on the range of competencies needed (by project task) and ettermine of EFBA needs to revise the plan, plan additional training, or necruit experts. Create a resource schedule and calendar and determine if EFBA has the resource requirements to complete the entire program. Anticipate what if scenarios to determine worst-case resource management scenarios tast individual project resource activity and make sure all tasks are assigned to a specific resource activity and make sure all tasks are assigned to a specific resource.	STATUS: Objective in progress  1. Annual budget created that spans all departments and projects, allowing organization to deliver on commitment to high-quality, robust academic programmins posterior programmins platforms such as Asana and Theolic, but utilizately decided that the Google Suite was the optimal free option 3. Before any project is understaken, necessary skills and competencies are determined to ensure quality results log EFFA recruited an expert to Director to manage the 2023-2024 to the thin ball of the Academic 4. Resource schedule and calendar are incorporated in annual budget for more transparency and inform decision-making or how to invest resources to optimize student outcomes resources to optimize student outcomes	Continue to optomize resources across the organization by:  1. Maintaining an up-to-date annual budget 2. Budgeting for each program / Initiative in advance and controlling resources to meet budget resources res	Critical learning need #2: Students need to connect with the language on a personal level for best results and engagement	Academic Director EFBA Leadership Staff		Frequency of budget updates TBA	Frequency of budget review TBA	