

FAMILIES • 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

Lycée Claudel's Change of Status to Partner School

This FAQ answers the main questions families have about the change in Lycée Claudel's administrative status with the AEFE. Our priority remains unchanged: to ensure the success of our students and their well-being in a healthy, demanding and caring environment, and to offer them every opportunity they need to build their future.

1. UNDERSTANDING THE AEFE NETWORK AND ITS STATUSES

What is the AEFE?

The AEFE (Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger – Agency for French Education Abroad) is a public institution under the authority of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. It supports the network of French schools abroad and contributes to the international influence of French education. Lycée Claudel is currently accredited by the French Ministry of National Education and operates under an agreement with the AEFE ("établissement conventionné").

What is an accredited school?

An accredited ("homologué") school is a school recognized by the French Ministry of National Education. This accreditation guarantees compliance with French curricula and French pedagogical standards, as well as the conditions required for continuity of schooling within the French system. In particular, it allows students to continue their education in another accredited school and to prepare for French examinations.

What is a school under agreement with the AEFE?

A school under agreement ("établissement conventionné") is a locally managed school that has signed an agreement with the AEFE. This agreement provides for a closer administrative and financial relationship with the Agency, as well as the presence of certain staff members employed under the AEFE framework.

What is a partner school?

A partner school is also an accredited school and a member of the network of French schools abroad. It does, however, enjoy greater autonomy in its organization, its human resources policy and its financial management. It continues to teach the French curricula for its accredited grade levels and to prepare students for French examinations.

Is partner status less recognized?

No. Partner status is fully recognized within the network of French schools abroad. The change of status calls into question neither Lycée Claudel's accreditation, nor its membership in the network, nor the recognition of its students' academic path.

2. CHANGE OF STATUS AND DECISION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Why is Lycée Claudel changing its status?

The AEFE offered the schools under agreement concerned an amendment to their agreement, which introduced new financial provisions. After a thorough analysis of its financial, legal, organizational and human implications, the Board of Directors decided not to sign it.

The analysis showed that this amendment would have led to a significant and lasting increase in the costs borne by the school, with a potentially major impact on tuition fees. Under the framework set by the AEFE, not signing the amendment results in a transition to partner status.

Can the decision not to sign the amendment and the move to partner status be reversed?

No. The Board of Directors' decision not to sign the amendment proposed by the AEFE is final. Under the framework set by the AEFE, this decision results in Lycée Claudel becoming a partner school as of September 1, 2027.

The school is therefore now in the phase of preparing and implementing this transition. The 2026-2027 school year is dedicated to preparing our teams, our organization and the future leadership team in order to ensure the school's continuity.

Why were parents not consulted before this decision?

The decision whether or not to sign the amendment falls under the responsibility of the Board of Directors, the elected governing body charged with making the strategic decisions that shape the school's future.

Having analyzed the implications of the amendment, it was the Board's duty to decide. Dialogue with families now continues on the implementation of the transition and on the vision for the Lycée Claudel of tomorrow.

When will the change of status take effect?

The change of status will take effect on September 1, 2027, for the 2027-2028 school year. Until then, Lycée Claudel remains under agreement with the AEFE and is preparing the transition step by step.

Will Lycée Claudel be ready?

Yes. The Board of Directors knew that not signing the amendment would lead to partner status. The 2026-2027 school year is specifically dedicated to preparing this transition from an organizational, financial and human standpoint.

3. ACCREDITATION, CURRICULA, EXAMINATIONS AND MOBILITY

Is Lycée Claudel leaving the network of French schools abroad?

No. Lycée Claudel remains in the network. Partner status is a recognized status within the network of French schools abroad. What changes is the administrative and contractual framework with the AEFE.

Will Lycée Claudel remain accredited?

Yes. Lycée Claudel will remain accredited by the French Ministry of National Education. Accreditation guarantees the continuity of the French academic path, compliance with French curricula and recognition of students' schooling. Academically, the French foundation remains.

Will the French curricula be maintained?

Yes. Students will continue to follow the French curricula in accordance with the requirements of the French Ministry of National Education.

Will students continue to prepare for the DNB and the baccalauréat?

Yes. Students will continue to prepare for the Diplôme national du brevet (DNB) and the French baccalauréat.

Will the baccalauréat keep the same value?

Yes. The baccalauréat remains the same French national diploma. The school's administrative status changes neither its value nor its recognition.

If my child leaves Claudel for another accredited French school, will they have to retake admission tests because of the change of status?

No, not because of the move to partner status. The education received at Lycée Claudel remains an accredited French academic path and is recognized as such.

The change of status therefore does not call into question the recognition of schooling completed at Claudel or the continuity of the academic path within the French system. However, each receiving school may apply its own admission procedures, depending in particular on available places or its internal processes. These procedures do not result from Lycée Claudel's partner status.

Will French families keep access to French government scholarships?

Yes. French families will keep access to French government scholarships ("bourses scolaires") under the usual eligibility criteria.

4. TEACHERS, LOCAL CONTRACTS AND TEACHING QUALITY

What is a local contract?

A local contract is first and foremost an employment status. It does not correspond to a level of qualification.

A teacher under local contract may have been trained in France, in Canada or elsewhere, and may have taught within the French national education system or in other French schools abroad. What matters in recruitment are their qualifications, experience, teaching skills and command of the French curricula.

Are teachers under local contract less qualified?

No. Today, 75% of Lycée Claudel's teachers are already under local contract and contribute fully to the quality of teaching and to student success. Employment status alone does not determine a teacher's quality or level of qualification.

Will all the teachers change?

No. Lycée Claudel currently has 84 teachers, 21 of whom hold AEFE status, or 25% of the teaching staff. This means that 75% of teachers already work under local contract and are not directly affected by this change of status.

As in any school, staff changes may occur each year for professional or personal reasons. The change of status therefore does not mean a wholesale turnover of the team.

Will teachers currently under AEFE status be able to stay at Claudel?

Yes. Staff members currently under AEFE status who wish to continue their careers at Lycée Claudel may be offered a local contract. Individual meetings are being held with the staff concerned.

The school's priority is to preserve team stability as much as possible and to retain the skills, experience and expertise present within the school.

Will recruitment standards change?

Our standards remain as high as ever. The school will continue to seek qualified and experienced candidates in France, in Canada and internationally, with particular attention to subject mastery, teaching skills and knowledge of the French curricula.

5. LEADERSHIP AND THE FUTURE OF LYCÉE CLAUDEL

Who will lead Lycée Claudel from September 2027?

The change of status will allow Lycée Claudel to recruit its future leadership team directly. This is one of the major opportunities of this transition.

Our goal is to give Claudel stable leadership, fully committed to the school's vision and able to sustain it over time. We will seek candidates with a strong knowledge of the French education system, able to uphold accreditation and academic excellence, while fully understanding the realities of a French school in Canada.

Leadership stability will be a priority: an ambitious educational project is built over several years.

Does partner status mean that Claudel will become a Canadian school rather than a French school?

No. Claudel will remain a school accredited by the French Ministry of National Education, teaching the French curricula and preparing students for French diplomas.

Our ambition is to fully preserve this French foundation while making greater use of the opportunities offered by our Canadian and international environment.

6. WHAT CHANGES AND WHAT DOES NOT

What actually changes?

What mainly changes is the administrative and contractual framework between Lycée Claudel and the AEFE. Partner status will provide greater local autonomy to steer the school's development and make decisions that meet its needs.

This autonomy will notably allow Lycée Claudel to:

- directly recruit and stabilize its leadership team;
- have greater autonomy in shaping its human resources policy;
- adapt its organization more quickly to the school's needs;
- decide more directly how its financial resources are used;
- accelerate certain educational and strategic projects;
- continue developing a French educational model fully rooted in its Canadian environment.

What does not change?

Lycée Claudel's fundamentals remain unchanged:

- accreditation by the French Ministry of National Education;
- the French curricula;
- preparation for the DNB and the French baccalauréat;
- the value of the French baccalauréat;
- membership in the network of French schools abroad;
- the continuity of the French academic path;
- access to French government scholarships for eligible French families, under the applicable criteria.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT AND TUITION FEES

Will tuition fees increase because of the change of status?

The change of status does not, in itself, lead to an automatic increase in tuition fees.

As every year, tuition fees will be set as part of the budget process, based in particular on changes in costs, educational needs, investments and the school's overall financial situation.

One of the very objectives of the decision taken is to preserve a sustainable financial model, to maintain the capacity to invest in the quality of teaching and services, and to limit the impact on families as much as possible.

IN CONCLUSION

Claudél remains Claudél: same accreditation, same curricula, same diplomas and the same educational standards, with greater autonomy to build its future.

The decision on the school's status has been made. The year ahead must now allow us to prepare the transition, support our teams, build the future leadership team and continue the dialogue with families.

Our ambition goes beyond a successful transition: it is to help Claudél evolve and to raise our standards even higher in the service of our students' success.