
FRENCH IMMERSION

Background

French Immersion is a program of choice in the District; the program offered in the District reflects Ministry of Education Policy. The District recognizes that French Immersion programming benefits the cognitive and social development of students, as well as their opportunities for career advancement.

Procedures

1. Program Objectives

- 1.1 French Immersion is a separate program where instruction is offered in the French language for second language learners.
- 1.2 Instruction in the Immersion program will parallel the regular English program in structure, content, and academic standards.
- 1.3 The major goal of French Immersion is to provide the opportunity for non-Francophone students to become bilingual in English and French.
- 1.4 Upon successful completion of the French Immersion program, it is expected that the students will be able to:
 - 1.4.1 Participate easily in conversations in French and English.
 - 1.4.2 Take post-secondary courses with French as the language of instruction.
 - 1.4.3 Accept employment with French as the language of the workplace.

2. Availability

- 2.1 French Immersion program establishment and/or expansion will be considered when there is sufficient demand, dependent on the availability of classroom space, and qualified professional staff.
- 2.2 To make equitable provision for entry into French Immersion programs within the District, the concepts of regional access and equal opportunity will be considered when selecting locations.
- 2.3 The choice of school is based on determining a convenient location, in a school where sufficient space is available, and where it is evident that space for future needs is available.
- 2.4 Catchment areas shall be established for each school hosting a French Immersion program. These catchment areas shall be defined in terms of regular program elementary school catchment areas.

3. Student Eligibility

- 3.1 Children five years of age between January 1 and December 31 in any one year may enter immersion kindergarten in September of that same year.
- 3.2 Openings which occur during immersion kindergarten will be filled as they occur from the waiting list.

4. Selection Process

- 4.1 District staff develops priorities to govern access to French Immersion programs, considering siblings and attendance areas.
- 4.2 Where applications exceed places available in any situation, placement is made based on priorities set out in clause 4.1 above and a random draw is made from all applicants not able to be placed by priority.
- 4.3 When necessary, District staff in cooperation with administrators and parent representatives shall conduct a draw and maintain a waiting list.

5. Student Transfers

- 5.1 Students without previous French immersion exposure will not be admitted beyond September 30 of grade 1 unless they are able to demonstrate the required skills and abilities.
- 5.2 Students from outside the District who have French immersion experience will be placed by District staff, following an evaluation and consideration of the departure point from their previous school.

6. Promotion and Assessment

- 6.1 Students who wish to leave French Immersion receive some credits for core French through a challenge process or through the Ministry prescribed procedure.

Reference: Sections 8.2, 17, 20, 22, 65, 75, 85 *School Act*
School Regulation 265/89
Education Program Guide M333/99
Section 23 *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom*

Adopted: May 18, 2022
Revised: May 18, 2022