

# EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION

## Background

The District supports an Early French Immersion program for Kindergarten through graduation.

The program is supported for a number of reasons, the most important being:

- A second language fosters understanding and tolerance for different cultures. Specifically, proficiency in French will lead to a wider range of employment options and an enhanced ability to expand academic pursuits and will facilitate travel and cultural opportunities;
- French is one of Canada's two official languages. Its acquisition can contribute to the creation and maintenance of national unity.

## Procedures

### 1. Points of Entry

- 1.1. Entry to the Early French Immersion program will normally be granted at the Kindergarten level.
- 1.2. Entry to the program at other grade levels may be granted in certain specially adjudicated circumstances. This determination will be made by the Principal after consultation with appropriate school personnel, District personnel, and parents.

### 2. Registration

- 2.1. Admission will be granted in order of registration. Siblings of students already enrolled in the program will be placed at the head of the admission list.
- 2.2. The admission list will be made up of students whose parents register on the designated Early French Immersion registration day or later. No pre-registrations will be accepted.
- 2.3. The District reserves the right to limit enrolments to French Immersion programs.
- 2.4. A District orientation session will be held prior to Early French Immersion Kindergarten registration.

### 3. Staffing

- 3.1. All staff assigned to French Immersion programs will be proficient in oral and written French and English.
- 3.2. Leave staff will be made from recommendations of a selection committee made up of:
  - 3.2.1. A person appointed to coordinate the District French program;

3.2.2. The Principal of the receiving school, aided when necessary by a French-speaking staff member (preferably an administrative officer); and

3.2.3. District staff personnel.

#### 4. In-service

4.1. Teachers of French Immersion shall be encouraged and assisted wherever possible to participate in in-service programs that are conducted in French and are specific to their discipline.

4.2. The modern languages coordinator or a person designated by the Superintendent will be responsible for funding applications for French Immersion and for publicizing, identifying, and preparing in-service opportunities for staff.

#### 5. Curriculum and Resources

5.1. When possible and where applicable, locally developed classroom materials for student use will be made available in French and be released concurrently with the English material.

5.2. It is desirable that French Immersion teachers have representation on appropriate District curriculum planning committees.

5.3. The District encourages the extension of French language opportunities through close linkages with French-speaking cultures.

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

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