

Administrative Procedure 212

FRENCH IMMERSION

Background

French Immersion is a program of choice in the District; programs offered in the District reflect 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 functionally 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; and/or
 - 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 In an attempt 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 Attendance areas shall be established for each school hosting a French Immersion program. These attendance areas shall be defined in terms of regular program elementary school attendance 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.

3.3 Students entering grade 6 may enroll in late French Immersion.

4. Student Transfers

4.1 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. Promotion and Assessment

5.1 Students who wish to leave French Immersion may be able to receive some credits for core French through a challenge process.

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: February 16, 1982
Revised: April 2, 1984; December 15, 2020