

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMMING

Background

The Division believes that second language learning fosters personal growth and enrichment. It is recognized that learning French contributes to the bilingual and multicultural dimensions of our country. The ability to communicate in a second language enhances opportunities for living, learning and working both nationally and globally. The Division supports the provision of French Immersion programming from kindergarten to Grade 12.

The French Immersion Program objectives (i.e. content as described in the Program of Studies from Alberta Education; [Programmes d'études Alberta Education](#)) are identical to those of the English program, with the addition of French Language Arts. Language skills are taught in context with an emphasis on effective communication. French is the language of instruction for a large portion of the subjects taught in class, as opposed to being the object of instruction. The language objective, as of high school graduation, is a high level of functional fluency in French.

[FSD French Services Website](#)

Procedures

1. French Immersion

- 1.1 The French Immersion Program will be implemented as an integral alternative program in existing schools so as to create “dual track” schools (English and French).
- 1.2 Parents will be provided with information on the French Immersion Program and the necessary counselling to ensure that they, as far as possible, make the best decision about the choice of program for their children.
- 1.3 The Division is committed to providing French Immersion Programs, where numbers warrant, in kindergarten to grade 12.
- 1.4 The French Immersion Program will be provided with access to the supports and services that are required to effectively program for the identified specialized learning needs of the students in their program. The full range of programming available to students with more complex learning needs may not be available within French Immersion programs due to the limitations on Division resources.
- 1.5 French Immersion Programs will be funded at a level equivalent to school programs where the language of instruction is English.
- 1.6 The French Immersion Program will be accessible:
 - 1.6.1 As an entry point to any child of age to enter kindergarten or grade 1 in an area where a French Immersion Program is operating;

- 1.6.2 To students in grades 2 to 9 who have been previously enrolled in a French Immersion Program;
 - 1.6.3 To students otherwise proficient in the speaking, listening, reading and writing components of the French language, as outlined in the Alberta Education Program of Studies.
- 1.7 Hours of Instruction:
- Research and experience have clearly demonstrated that student proficiency in the French language is strongly correlated to the **amount of time** during which French is used as the language of instruction. Recognizing that many local factors may determine the time allocated to instruction in the French language, Alberta Education recommends the following ranges as supportive of the objectives of French immersion programming (as per the [Guide to Education](#)):
- 1.7.1 Foothills School Division French Immersion Certificate shall be awarded upon successful completion of program requirements.
 - 1.7.2 The Division shall provide access for students in grade 12 French courses and programs to sit for the internationally recognized French language exam, Diplôme d'études en langue française ([DEL F](#)), providing them with certification of their proficiency level. In French Immersion the students will sit for the following DEL F levels:
 - Grade 5: DEL F Prim A2
 - Grade 9: DEL F B1
 - Grade 12: DEL F B2
- 1.8 Teachers of French Immersion require high French proficiency levels and will be assessed by the Division French Services team by completing a language proficiency screening. All Grades 4-12 French Immersion teachers will be DEL F trained and certified.

2. Exiting French Immersion

When a family chooses to withdraw a student from the French Immersion Program, the principal shall arrange for the family/student to complete the following online form: [Form 212-1 French Immersion Program Exit Form](#).

- 3. The Division provides transportation for students to attend the French Immersion Program as per AP552 – *Student Transportation Services – Language Immersion Programs*.

Reference: Relevant Legislation & Guidelines