

STRAIT REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD <i>Excellence in Lifelong Learning</i> <i>POLICIES - GUIDELINES</i>	EDUCATION	III-B-4
	Curriculum and Instruction FRENCH SECOND LANGUAGE	
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FRENCH SECOND LANGUAGE

POLICY STATEMENT

Given the bilingual nature of Canada and the global community in which we live, the Strait Regional School Board recognizes the benefits and opportunities which the learning of French as a second language can bring to its students and its communities.

The Board is therefore committed to providing students with quality programs, competent staff, and opportunities to access a variety of French Second Language programs.

French Second Language programs provided in the Strait Regional School Board's schools shall be consistent with the provisions of the Department of Education's *Policy for French Second Language Programs* (June 1998) and the *Public School Program*.

PRINCIPLES

In its support and promotion of French Second Language programs, the Strait Regional School Board adheres to the following principles:

1. All instruction in French programs is conducted in the French language and in an environment conducive to acquiring the language.
2. Teaching staff possess a high level of oral and written competency in French.
3. French second language learning and teaching emphasizes effective communication and interaction based on real experiences.
4. Schools are encouraged to support and provide co-curricular and extra-curricular activities in French language and culture.
5. Optional French programs will be offered when numbers of students and resources permit.

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6. Teachers wanting to improve their French language competencies and instructional methods will receive support as funding and resources permit.
7. The Strait Regional School Board will continue to pursue avenues of funding to support its French Second Language program offerings.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

1. Core French - Effective September, 1999

- i) Compulsory, Grades 4 to 9
- ii) Optional, Grades 10-12

- 1.1 In Grades 4-6, French is scheduled for a targeted minimum of ten per cent (10%) of the instructional time in each six-day cycle.
- 1.2 In Grades 7-9, French is scheduled for a targeted minimum of 210 minutes in each six-day cycle.
- 1.3 In Grades 10-12, instructional time in French corresponds to the provincial requirement for a high school credit.
- 1.4 Where offered, Gaelic as a second language and Mi'kmaq as a second language may be introduced, starting at Grade 3.

2. Early French Immersion

- 2.1 The curriculum, as prescribed by the Department of Education, apportions the percentage of instruction in the French language as follows:

Grades P - 2	90 - 100%
Grades 3 - 6	80 - 85%
Grades 7 - 9	60 - 75%
Grades 10 - 12	Minimum of nine (9) credits.

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2.2 Early French Immersion classes shall continue to be offered at existing sites as long as the number of students enrolled in the program can be accommodated by the normal staffing allocation. The Board will continue to seek support from provincial and federal funding partners.

3. **Middle and Late Immersion** programs, although not currently offered by the Strait Regional School Board, will be assessed in relation to the enrolment criteria for new Early French Immersion programs and the Board's ability to accommodate the programs through normal staffing allocations. The Board will continue to seek support from provincial and federal funding partners.

4. **Program Implementation at New Sites**

4.1 The Board shall consider written requests by parents for the creation of new Immersion programs.

5. **Primary French Immersion Registration**

5.1 Registration for Grade Primary French Immersion is on a first-come-first-served basis and will be completed by the end of February. Where existing classes are not full after this date, registration will continue to be accepted until those classes are full.

6. **Accessibility**

6.1 All students under the jurisdiction of the Strait Regional School Board shall be eligible for admittance to the nearest Grade Primary French Immersion program. No geographical preference shall be given.

6.2 A student who moves into the Region and who has been in an Immersion program in the previous school may join the Immersion program at an appropriate grade level, provided there is space in the specific classroom.

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GENERAL

1. **Transportation**

- 1.1 Transportation of students enrolled in French Immersion programs to established regional sites shall be provided through regular bus routes.
- 1.2 In the event that Board-operated transportation service is not in place, parents/guardians shall be responsible for making transportation arrangements for students enrolled in French Immersion programs on a private basis, at no cost to the Board.

- 2. **School-based resources:** The Board shall provide services to meet the needs of French Immersion students according to its resources. The Board will continue to seek support from provincial and federal funding partners.