

FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Background

The District recognizes the importance and benefits of providing students with expanded opportunities to learn a second language. Language learning greatly contributes to a student's educational experiences, personal growth and development of higher level thinking skills and is an important component of a student's overall education. Language learning enriches a student's immediate learning experiences, while at the same time helping them to build important skills that will prepare them for the world of work and enhance their opportunities to become life-long learners.

Knowledge of French and other languages prepare students to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Students gain cultural understanding as they learn to communicate in French, one of Canada's official languages. Learning French is considered important both to enhance opportunities for living and working throughout Canada and the world, as well as to foster a greater understanding between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians.

In choosing to deliver French language programs, the District relies upon the Alberta Programs of Study.

Procedures

The District is committed to ensuring a broad range of French language options including:

1. French as a Second Language (FSL)
 - 1.1 FSL will be taught in grades 4 to 7.
 - 1.2 FSL is an optional subject in grades 8 to 12.
 - 1.3 FSL teachers must:
 - 1.3.1 Have a functional knowledge of the language as determined at the District level.
 - 1.3.2 Use the communicative approach which focuses on having students use the French language in authentic learning experiences.
 - 1.4 Teachers are expected to use the Programs of Study available from Alberta Education, as well as District-approved supplementary resources.
2. French Immersion
 - 2.1 As with all District programs, French Immersion is permeated with Catholic beliefs, teaching and tradition. In delivering their instructional programming, immersion

- teachers must implement the Programs of Study, as well as the teaching and learning resources for French Immersion that are available from Alberta Education.
- 2.2 French will be the predominant language of instruction with a strong English language arts program.
 - 2.2.1 French will be an essential component of the daily school routines and interactions.
 - 2.2.2 The Religious Education program mandated in the District will always be taught in English.
 - 2.3 Teachers selected to teach the French Immersion program must have the ability to communicate and teach in both English and French.
 - 2.4 French immersion teachers:
 - 2.4.1 Must speak the French language at the “native speaker” level.
 - 2.4.2 Must have knowledge of second language acquisition, effective pedagogical practices, and in-depth knowledge of differentiated instruction and assessment for learning.
 - 2.4.3 Are expected that those to have knowledge of authentic French cultures in Canada and around the world.

Approval Date: June 14, 2018

Reference: Section 3, 8, 9, 11, 18, 20, 21, 60, 61, 113 School Act
Funding Manual for School Authorities
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12