

Administrative Procedure 226

Bilingual Programs and Language and Culture Courses

Background

The Division's bilingual language programs provide students with the opportunity to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language as well as intercultural competencies. Students develop an appreciation for the cultures studied and communities throughout the world.

Definitions

Bilingual programs are programs in which the target language is used as the language of instruction for up to 50 percent of the instructional minutes. Bilingual programs begin in Kindergarten or Grade 1 and continue through to Grade 12. Students learn the language through the content areas and gain an understanding and appreciation of cultures studied.

Language and Culture Courses are those courses in which an additional language is studied as a subject to develop communication skills and an appreciation of the cultures of speakers of the language. Cree, Filipino, Italian, and Spanish are offered.

Procedures

1. School based Leadership

- 1.1 The Division should assign at least one principal or assistant principal who speaks the target language in schools offering bilingual programs.

2. Assessment

- 2.1 In addition to assessments in English Language Arts and Literature (K-6), students in bilingual programs shall participate in assessments in the target language as laid out by the Division.

3. Entry Points Bilingual Programs

- 3.1 Kindergarten and Grade 1 are points of entry into the program. Target language experience is not required at these entry points. A main consideration for admission into the program past these specified entry points will be the determination of an appropriate level of target language proficiency for success in the program. Parents wishing to register their child in a bilingual program after Grade 1 must contact the principal. It is at the discretion of the receiving principal to make the decision on an individual basis.

4. Instructional Hours

- 4.1 The recommended percentage of instruction for the bilingual programs is indicated below.

	Division I	Division II	Division III	Division IV
Spanish Bilingual	Up to 50% of instruction in target language		Up to 35%	25 credits
Ukrainian Bilingual	Up to 50% of instruction in target language		Up to 35%	25 credits

5. Inclusion

- 5.1 Specialized learning supports for students enrolled in a bilingual program will be at a level consistent with those provided to students in the English program.

6. Recognition of Completion of the Program

- 6.1 High schools offering bilingual programs will present a certificate of completion to students who are graduating from the program. The Division certificate will acknowledge their participation in the bilingual program.

7. School and Course Placement

- 7.1 The Superintendent, Educational Planning, will designate schools in which bilingual programming is offered.

8. Teacher Language Proficiency

- 8.1 An advanced or expert level of language proficiency in the target language is required of all teachers providing instruction in the target language in a bilingual program. Language proficiency will be assessed at the point of hire and at various points at the discretion of the principal throughout their employment with the Division.

9. Language and Culture Courses

- 9.1 Addition or Removal of Language and Culture Courses:

- 9.11 Requests for addition or removal of Language and Culture courses must be made through Superintendents' Strategic Leadership Council by filling out [this form](#).

10. Challenge Exams

- 10.1 Please refer to [Administrative Procedure 365 - Course Challenge](#) for direction.

11. Curriculum

- 11.1 Teachers shall deliver the program of study prescribed by Alberta Education or the locally developed program of studies.

12. Instructional Hours

- 12.1. Students in Grades 4 through 9 will receive a minimum of 75 hours of instruction per year.
- 12.2. Students in Grades 10 through 12 must receive 125 hours of instruction to receive credits for Language and Culture courses.

13. Language of Instruction

- 13.1 The target language is used as the language of instruction.

Adopted: July 31, 2024

Reference: Education Act, Sections 3, 15, 16, 17(2)(3), 21, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 196, 197, 222
Alberta Funding Manual for School Authorities
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
[School Administrator's Guide to implementing language programming](#)
[Handbook for French Immersion Administrator](#)
Administrative Procedure 102 – School Accountability
Administrative Procedure 105 – Site-Based Stewardship
Administrative Procedure 200 – Organization for Instruction
Administrative Procedure 365 – Course Challenge