

Administrative Procedure 224

FRENCH IMMERSION

Background

Bilingualism is at the core of Canada's national identity. The opportunity to learn an additional language fosters personal growth and enrichment and promotes an understanding and application of those languages and cultures. The division supports the teaching of Canada's two official languages, English, and French, as languages of instruction.

Definition

The French Immersion (FI) program begins in Kindergarten or Grade 1 and continues through to Grade 12. French Immersion enables students to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French by the end of Grade 12 while achieving a level of English competence equivalent to students in English programs. French Immersion is designed for students whose first language is not French. Students learn the language through the content areas and gain an understanding and appreciation of francophone cultures. The language of communication between home and school is English.

Procedures

1. School based leadership

- 1.1 The Division shall assign at least one French speaking principal or assistant principal to each French Immersion program.

2. Assessments

- 2.1 In addition to assessments in English Language Arts and Literature (K-6) and English Language Arts (7-12), Division French Immersion students shall participate in assessments in French Immersion Language Arts and Literature (K-6) and French Language Arts (7-12) as laid out by the Division.

3. Curriculum

- 3.1 French Immersion programs shall adhere to the programs of study prescribed by Alberta Education.

4. English Language Arts and Literature

- 4.1 English Language Arts and Literature shall be introduced in French Immersion in November of Grade 2 and taught in every subsequent grade thereafter.

5. Entry Points

- 5.1 Kindergarten and Grade 1 are points of entry into the program. French 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 French language proficiency for success in the program. Parents wishing to register their child in French Immersion after Grade 1 must contact the principal. It is at the discretion of the receiving principal to make the decision on an individual basis.

6. Inclusion

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

7. Instructional Hours

- 7.1. The recommended hours of instruction for the French Immersion program are indicated below.

Grade Levels	Percentage	Minimum Recommended Hours
Kindergarten	90%	428
Grade 1	90%	855
Grade 2	75%	712
Grades 3-6	75%	712
Grades 7-9	50-80%	570
Grades 10-12	40-80%	600

- 7.2. Schools shall ensure the accurate reporting of instructional hours in PowerSchool.

8. Language of Instruction

- 8.1 With the exception of English Language Arts and Literature and Religion, French shall be the language of instruction in all core's subject areas. Whenever operationally possible, Physical Education, Music, Art, and junior high options and senior high courses and options shall be offered in French.

9. Recognition of Completion of the Program

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

10. School Placement

- 10.1 The Superintendent, Educational Planning, will designate schools in which French Immersion programming is offered.

11. Teacher Language Proficiency

- 11.1 An advanced or expert level of language proficiency in French is required of all teachers providing instruction in French in a French Immersion 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.

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 Assurance and Accountability
Administrative Procedure 105 – Site-Based Stewardship
Administrative Procedure 200 – Organization for Instruction
Administrative Procedure 365 – Course Challenge