

## **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 on the Alberta Program of Studies.

### **Procedures**

The Division is committed to ensuring a broad range of French Language options including:

1. French as a Second Language (FSL)

FSL will be taught in Grades 4 to 6, with the exception of students in French Immersion or Ukrainian Bilingual Programs. FSL is an optional subject in Grades 7 to 12. FSL teachers must have a functional knowledge of the language as determined at the Division level. FSL teachers must use the communicative approach which focuses on having students use the French language in authentic learning experiences. Teachers are expected to use the Programs of Study available from Alberta Education, as well as, Division-approved supplementary resources.

## 2. French Immersion Program

The Board approves operation of a French Immersion Program for grades kindergarten to 9 in the Division when numbers warrant. In addition, the Board authorizes maintenance of French Immersion Program offerings at grades 10-12 when numbers warrant.

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. French will be the predominant language of instruction with a strong English Language Arts program. French will be an essential component of the daily school routines and interactions.

- 2.1 In kindergarten to grade 9, French will be the language of instruction except in designated subjects as follows:
  - 2.1.1 Grade 1 – Religion.
  - 2.1.2 Grades 2 to 8 – Religion and English Language Arts.
  - 2.1.3 Grade 9 – Religion, Practical Arts and English Language Arts
  - 2.1.4 Grade 9 – Complementary courses where the unavailability of suitable French resources exists.
- 2.2 In grades 10-12, French will be the language of instruction in a minimum of two (2) subjects, one (1) of which shall be French Language Arts.
- 2.3 Teachers selected to teach the French Immersion program must have the ability to communicate and teach in both English and French. In addition, the French language must be at the “native speaker” level. Teachers must also have knowledge of second language acquisition, effective pedagogical practices, and in-depth knowledge of differentiated instruction and assessment for learning. It is expected that those who teach in these programs have knowledge of authentic French cultures in Canada and around the world.

Reference: *Education Act*, SA 2012, c E-0.3, ss.32, 33, 52, 53, 55, 196, 197, 204, 222  
Section 23, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12