

EDUCATION

BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE ADM

FOR INFORMATION

ISSUE: How do student outcomes in high-school math vary between the English Program, French Immersion Program, and Français Program?

RELEVANT BACKGROUND:

- This analysis uses student math marks and enrollment data from grades 9 to 12 over four academic years (2018–2021).
- The Français Program is a fully French-language program; French Immersion involves learning many subjects in French but not exclusively.
- The English Program is the standard English-language program.
- Math marks were anonymized slightly, and credits earned indicate course passing.

ANALYSIS:

- Students in the Français and French Immersion programs have higher average math marks (~76-77) compared to the English Program (~71).
 - Passing rates are higher in French-language programs (>98%) than in the English Program (~92%).
 - A larger percentage of French program students score above 90 (23-25%) and fewer score below 40 (about 2-2.5%) compared to English program students (19.5% high, 7.7% low).
 - Many French program students achieve perfect scores, indicating strong performance at the top end.
 - A statistical comparison of the three programs shows that the differences in math results are real and meaningful and not due to random chance.
 - While the differences are meaningful and consistent, they are not alarming. The English Program still shows a high pass rate (92%), but the results highlight an opportunity to examine what supports or practices in French-language programs may be contributing to stronger outcomes.
 - Differences in curriculum, student supports, and program focus may contribute to these outcomes
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