

EDUCATION: PROGRAMS

Policy 512.4-R (previously 602.4-R)

French Programmes

1. Core French (French as a Second Language)

In the Core Programme, French is offered as a subject for a certain number of minutes per week. Fluency or bilingualism is not a goal of this programme; however, students learn to communicate in a limited way within the range of a common everyday vocabulary.

(a) 7th and 8th year of the educational program: (French as a Second Language) *

In the 7th & 8th year of the educational programme, the study of French should enable students to:

- (i) develop positive attitudes toward the French language and its speakers,
- (ii) acquire communication skills, and
- (iii) develop an awareness of and an appreciation for the ways of life of French speaking people.

The programme involves a minimum of 100 hours of instruction by the end of the 8th year of an educational program.

** In some schools, Core French may be offered earlier than the 7th and 8th year of an educational program.*

(b) 9th to 13th year of an educational program: (French as a Second Language)

In the 9th to 13th year of the educational program, the study of French should enable students to:

- (i) develop a favorable feeling towards the French language and Francophone peoples throughout the world,
- (ii) increase, within realistic limits, their ability to communicate effectively in French and consequently, take advantage of vocational and leisure opportunities or meet post-secondary requirements, and
- (iii) develop an understanding of the values, customs, and other elements of French-language culture, particularly as experienced in Canada.

2. French Immersion

In the immersion programmes, French is taught not only as a subject but also is used as the language of instruction in other subjects. The aim of the programme is to enable students to acquire fluency in French.

(a) Early Immersion: (1st to the 13th year of an educational program)

Early immersion, beginning in the 1st year of an educational program and continuing through to the graduate program, can be expected to provide students with functional bilingualism by the time they graduate.

French is the language of instruction in all subjects from the Primary Program through the Intermediate and Graduation program. English Language Arts (60 minutes per day) is started in the 4th year of the educational program, and from the 5th year on, Mathematics (40 minutes per day), is taught in English. All other subjects are taught in French until the end of 8th year of the educational program.

In the upper intermediate and graduate programs, the following courses are taught in French:

9th year	-	French, Social Studies, Science
10th year	-	French, Social Studies, Science
11th year	-	French, Social Studies, Science
12th year	-	French, Social Studies
13th year	-	French, History

(b) Late Immersion: (7th to 13th year of an educational program)

Late French Immersion begins in the 7th year and, continuing through the graduation program can be expected to provide students with instrumental bilingualism by the time they graduate from the 13th year of an education program.

In the 7th year of the educational program all subjects are taught in the French language. In the 8th year of the educational program, the only subject taught in English is English Language Arts. All other subjects are taught in French. At the 9th to 13th years of the educational program, students would follow the same programme as students in the Early French Immersion programme.

(c) Admission

(i) Early French Immersion

Admission to the Early French Immersion programme for Richmond students will be based on space availability. The Board of Education (Richmond) may establish the enrollment limit annually.

Students may be enrolled in first year primary:

- in the case of a child whose fifth birthday occurs in the period from November 1 to April 30, on the first school day of January that occurs in that period;
- in the case of a child whose fifth birthday occurs in the period from May 1 to October 31, on the first day of September that occurs in that period; or in second year primary.

For entry at other grade levels, students must have been in a French Immersion programme or have an adequate prior knowledge of French.

Registration will be on a first come, first served basis except that priority will be given to the siblings of students already in the French Immersion Program (either EFI or LFI). Registration will take place each year as close to March 1st as possible.

Placement in particular schools will be at the discretion of the School District. Parents will be given the opportunity to indicate their choice of schools in order of preference.

(ii) Late French Immersion

Admission to the Late French Immersion Programme for Richmond students will be based on space availability. The Board of Education (Richmond) shall establish the enrollment limit annually.

Students shall be enrolled at the 7th year of an educational program. Entry at the 8th level of the educational program and follow-up years shall be limited to students who have an adequate prior knowledge of French.

Registration will be on a first come, first served basis except that priority will be given to the siblings of students already in the French Immersion Program (either EFI or LFI). Registration will take place each year as close to March 1st as possible.

Placement in particular schools will be at the discretion of the School District. Parents will be given the opportunity to indicate their choice of schools in order of preference.

Programme continuity will be assured, numbers permitting, for all students who begin French Immersion instruction.

(d) Staffing

It is recommended that teachers should:

- (i) Be native speakers or have native-like fluency in French and are able to communicate in English.
- (ii) Have training appropriate to their assignment.
- (iii) Have training in immersion and/or second language teaching methodology at an appropriate level.
- (iv) Have relevant teaching experience in French Immersion.

(e) Transportation

Transportation assistance will not be provided for students enrolled in French Immersion.

3. Programme-Cadre de Francais

(a) Ministry of Education Policy 146 (1st to 13th year of the educational program)

It is not a second language programme but the French equivalent of the regular Provincial English-language curriculum, 1st to 13th year of an educational program.

The main objective of the Programme-Cadre de Francais is to offer French-language education to the Francophone population of Richmond.

(b) Admission

A class shall be established in the school district when there are at least 10 F.T.E. eligible students whose Francophone parents or guardians are resident in Richmond and have requested enrollment.

To be eligible, a student must be the son or daughter of a Francophone parent. (Parent's first language learned was French.)

Eligible students may enter the programme at any grade level.

