

211 FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Canadian Rockies School Division recognizes the merits of implementing and maintaining an Early French Immersion Program. Knowledge of French and other languages prepares 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 Division relies upon the Alberta Programs of Study.

Definition

Early Immersion Program refers to a program that begins at the Kindergarten and/or Grade One level.

Procedures

1. Subject to enrolment, the French Immersion Program will be offered from Kindergarten to Grade 9 in designated schools.
2. The French Immersion Program is intended to encourage the learning of English and French so as to:
 - a. allow all students taking English and French the opportunity of learning these languages for the purpose of communicating effectively in both.
 - b. promote in students, an awareness of and an appreciation for, Canada's two official languages.
 - c. provide an opportunity to facilitate communication between English speaking and French speaking people.
3. Parents should be provided with information on the French Immersion Program and in consultation with school administration, an informed decision will be made about the choice of programming for their child.

4. Immersion students will have access to supports for their learning. This assistance may be offered in English or French, as determined by the school and within the available resources.
5. The French Immersion Program may be accessible as an entry point to any child of eligible age to enter Kindergarten or Grade 1, or at any appropriate grade level with demonstrated proficiency, after assessment by CRPS professional staff.
6. Time allotments for the operation of the French Immersion Program are as follows:

Kindergarten 100%

Grades 1 – 2, 90% –100%

Grades 3 – 6, 70% – 80%

Grades 7 – 9, 50% – 80%

Grade 9: French Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics will be delivered in French.

French Immersion students, in their Grade 10 year, will have the choice of taking French 30-I.

7. The Division will endeavor to offer a program which maximizes the grants available.
8. The school administration may combine grades to maintain optimal class sizes.
9. Enrolment Procedures for French Immersion:
 - a. Step 1: The FI enrolment cohort typically would not exceed 50% of the enrolment cohort at any grade level. A Kindergarten French Immersion class will normally have a minimum 24 students except when extenuating circumstances deem otherwise.
 - b. The Lottery System or time stamped online registration will be utilized to select students for available spaces.
 - c. It is expected that resident students of CRPS will begin FI in Kindergarten. In the case of a student new to the area entry into Grade 1 will be determined by available space in the Grade 1 FI class. Class sizes will be determined by the school administration.
 - d. The professional staff using standard screening benchmarks, anecdotal information and other assessment tools (“for learning”, rather than “of learning”)

will continue to provide an informed opinion to parents on their child's progress throughout the school year and, towards the end of the child's Kindergarten year, use the data gathered to counsel parents on the placement of their child.

- e. To sustain Grade 9 French Immersion, the minimum class size is set at 25 students.
- f. Grade 9 FI mandatory courses include French Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts.
- g. Administrative support in the form of bilingual school based/or division based personnel shall be in place to support the FSL and FI programs.

References

Section 3,16,17,18,52,53,196,222 Education Act
Funding Manual for School Authorities
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12

History

Approved: August 2003
Amended: June 2009
Amended: May 2020