

## Administrative Procedure 213

---

### FRENCH IMMERSION

#### Background

In Alberta, parents usually have the opportunity to have their children receive instruction in the French language, regardless of linguistic background. Typically, this is done through French Language Immersion Programs that are designed to achieve functional bilingualism and promote an appreciation of the Francophone culture in the Canadian and world context while respecting the student's personal and cultural integrity.

The offering of French Language Immersion Programs is governed by Alberta Education Policy 1.5.2 – French as a Second Language and French Language Immersion.

#### Procedures

1. Staff members involved in the French Immersion program are required to review provincial requirements and ensure compliance.
2. Assistance from the Division Office will be provided to Principals, French Immersion staff and parents for the purpose of maintaining a high quality program.
3. Students may enroll in the program starting in ECS or grade 1 and the program will be available to all those who wish to enroll.
4. For purposes of administration, personnel supervision and programming, the French Immersion programs will be an integral part of the designated schools under the supervision of the Principal or designate.
5. Only certified and preferably bilingual teachers holding valid teacher certification from Alberta Education will be placed in French Immersion programs. The Division will attempt to hire personnel who demonstrate French language proficiency, knowledge of French culture and the ability to communicate effectively with both English and French speaking parents.
6. Designated French Immersion schools will organize curricular and co-curricular activities and special projects to promote and enhance the attainment of linguistic and cultural objectives.
7. French will be a language of communication in the school and English will be the language of communication with the home.
8. The content of all courses taught in the French language will be consistent with the content as prescribed in the Programme d'Étude.

9. Students enrolled in the ECS French Immersion program will receive 100% of their instruction in the French language, except in the English Language Arts classes.
10. Students will be provided a program of English Language Arts instruction for not less than:
  - 10.1 Grades 3 to 6 Three hundred (300) minutes each week.
  - 10.2 Grades 7 to 9 One hundred fifty (150) hours per year.
  - 10.3 Grades 10 to 12 Not less than one hundred twenty-five (125) hours per year, or the equivalent of five (5) credits per year.
11. Wherever possible, a variety of instructional strategies will be utilized emphasizing the development of communication skills and the attainment of those skills and objectives specific to the particular courses taught in French.
12. Adequate in-service opportunities will be made available for teachers to upgrade their teaching skills, mastery of the French language and knowledge of the French culture.
13. Eligibility
  - 13.1 ECS – No previous knowledge of French is required. It is advisable for parents of children with physical disabilities to seek professional advice before enrolling them.
  - 13.2 Grade 1 – No previous knowledge in French is required for students who wish to enter the program in grade 1 in schools currently offering the program at that level.
  - 13.3 Grades 2 to 12 – While it is expected that most of the students registering will have had a previous bilingual education experience, the French Immersion program will be available to those who can show sufficient oral and written ability in French to permit them to participate in a class with students already in the program. Placement will be made on an individual basis at the school level.
14. Learning Commons Facilities
  - 14.1 Learning Commons facilities and resources will be adequate and appropriate to all courses taught. In particular:
    - 14.1.1 A bilingual atmosphere will be promoted in the school Learning Commons within schools with French Immersion programs.
    - 14.1.2 Authorized French and English curriculum support materials will be made available to teachers.
    - 14.1.3 French and English audio-visual support materials will be made available to teachers.
    - 14.1.4 Appropriate supplementary French and English language student reading books will be made available in the Learning Commons.
    - 14.1.5 Learning Commons personnel of French Immersion program schools will encourage the involvement of teachers and students in the selection and evaluation of French and English language learning resources material.

## 15. Community Involvement

- 15.1 Parents, staff and community will be informed of the program, its goals and its progress, and will be encouraged to participate directly or indirectly in the development, implementation and evaluation of French Immersion programs.

Reference: Section 32, 33, 52, 53, 55, 196, 197, 204, 222 Education Act  
Section 23, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12