

**Part B: Programs**

**4190 French Immersion**

Policy 4190 STATUS: ADOPTED

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*FRENCH IMMERSION*

Board Approved and Codified: May 20, 1986

Last Revised: June 19, 2013

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Description:

In recognition of the bilingual nature of Canada, the Board of Education believes that the offering of a French immersion program is justified when requested by parents.

The provision of a French Immersion Program is subject to there being sufficient students and resources to support the hiring of suitably qualified staff.

Regulation 4190 STATUS: ADOPTED

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## *FRENCH IMMERSION*

Board Approved and Codified: June 16, 1986

Last Revised: June 19, 2013

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Description:

**The goals for French Immersion programs are that:**

1. students will achieve in all subjects, at levels that are equivalent whether course instruction is in English or French;
2. By the end of grade 5, early French Immersion students will also be meeting outcomes in English Language Arts at a level equivalent to students in the regular grade 5 English track;
3. French immersion students will become functionally bilingual with the skills to:
  - Participate easily in French and/or English conversations;
  - Take further education as desired, where French is the language of instruction;
  - Accept employment using French as the language of the workplace;
  - Understand the culture, attitudes and values of Canada's French speaking population.

**General Regulations:**

French Immersion Programs are optional programs of choice, whereas English instruction programs are foundational to the District. A French Immersion program may be established and developed in School District #59 communities where annual enrollment is sufficient to staff and resource the program.

- Funding to operate French Immersion Programs will be based on the per-student funding in effect in the school district, in combination with supplemental revenue from Federal grants.
- English instruction students will not be displaced from their neighborhood schools to accommodate a French Immersion program or expansion.
- Rural school bus routes will not be adjusted to transport French Immersion students, however French Immersion students are eligible to ride existing rural routes where room on a bus permits.
- Students may not be transported by school bus in-town without the expressed permission of the Board of Education.
- Priority for entry to a French Immersion Program will be:
  - a. Students in the catchment area of a French Immersion program;
  - b. Siblings of students attending a French Immersion;
  - c. Other school district students who have been in attendance at a French Immersion Program;
  - d. Other school district students applying to attend
  - e. Students from outside the district applying to attend.

\*Note: Where a French Immersion program is at capacity, students in b, c, d and e above will be placed on a waiting list, and will be notified of a space in the program by the end of the first week of classes in September.
- Entry to French Immersion programs will generally be limited to Kindergarten and grade 1 levels. Students will be considered that were enrolled in French

immersion in another jurisdiction, or students that display competence in French to a satisfactory degree for entry to the program at their grade level.

**Board Responsibilities:**

Once implemented, a French Immersion program is to receive opportunities to maintain and strengthen the program. This support will not be at all cost, and has limits. Should a dual track school be facing financial and educational issues due to the enrollment numbers and grade splits for all the students, it will be the optional French Immersion program that will be reviewed for sustainability. To build sustainability, Board assistance is to include:

- An opportunity for the French Immersion program(s) to notify parents in all elementary schools of one informational meeting to be held in the spring year.
- To consult with all school principals toward developing strategies that may build sustainable French Immersion programs.
- Where enrollment becomes insufficient, or problematic to the school, the district will consult with parents to seek a solution. If there is no resolution to low enrollment, the district will give parents one full school year's notice of their intent to close a program.
- If a French Immersion program is proposed to close, the district will carry forward with existing French Immersion students based on the extent that the per-student funding continues to provide for the instruction, and the program.