

Administrative Procedure 211

French as a Second Language

Background

The district encourages opportunities for its students to learn French through French as a Second Language courses. Learning French enhances thinking skills, provides a variety of opportunities for students around the world, and helps them to better understand Canada's history and the nature of Canadian society.

Procedure

The following procedures shall be followed in elementary schools in Renfrew County District School Board:

Elementary Schools

Program and Procedures

1. French as a second language shall be provided for all students enrolled in regular classes from junior kindergarten to grade three as specified in French Core Program Curriculum Guidelines. French as a second language shall be provided for all students enrolled in regular classes from grades four to eight as specified in The Ontario Curriculum: French as a Second Language: Core French-Grades 4-8.
2. In the full day, alternate day junior kindergarten and kindergarten program, 30 minutes of French shall be offered. Students in grades one to eight will receive a thirty-minute core program.
3. With the approval of the principal and the Director or designate, a French immersion program will be introduced in the school and area where the following conditions are met:
 - 1) There is adequate parental support for the program;
 - 2) A minimum of twenty-five (25) suitable applicants will enter the program;
 - 3) The immersion class does not create a class size imbalance with a parallel English class;
 - 4) Sufficient enrolment continues to maintain the class;
 - 5) The immersion program will not cause release of any permanent unilingual teacher in the given family of schools.

4. Decisions will also be based upon overall school organization, and will be subject to the final approval of the Director of Education.
5. A parallel extended program shall not be introduced in an immersion centre nor its feeder schools.
6. An extended program may be offered in small schools where immersion is not viable and where a significant number of students wish to take more than the core program. Split grades may be the normal mode for offering an extended program in small schools.
7. If a French immersion class is discontinued because of low enrolment, the program can only be reintroduced when the new grade has twenty-five (25) or more students.
8. A decision to introduce the program would normally be taken by the principal and the Director or designate by March 31 of the year of introduction.

Criteria for Eligibility

1. Every attempt will be made to make it possible for interested students who are suited to the program to enroll in the middle French immersion and extended programs in the designated schools of the county.
2. A half-time middle French immersion program for grades five, six, seven and eight is offered when enrolment warrants in the following designated schools: Central, Keys, Walter Zadow, Cobden, Eganville, Highview, Pine View and Rockwood Public Schools.
3. This program is open to all students who meet the following criteria for student eligibility:
 - 1) acceptable performance in the regular academic program;
a satisfactory degree of student motivation and commitment;
 - 2) acceptable performance in the F.S.L. program (core, extended);
 - 3) lack of any serious learning disability;
 - 4) a joint decision by the parent(s) and student;
 - 5) the recommendation of the F.S.L. teacher and principal.
4. When more than thirty-four (34) students are requesting enrolment in an immersion program, admission will be granted on the recommendation of an admission committee.
5. The admission committee shall be composed of the Director or designate, principal and the second language teacher. The committee will consider the criteria listed above. Students previously enrolled in an immersion course will be given priority.

6. All eligible applicant names are placed in a draw. The first thirty-four (34) drawn will be admitted to the class. The remaining names will be placed on a waiting list in the order drawn. Students not taking advantage of the opportunity to learn French will be removed from the program to allow students on the waiting list to enter the program. Requests to join an immersion program during the school year will be referred to the admission committee through the Director of Education and will be placed at the end of the waiting list.

Parent/School Communication

1. The principal will survey the selected grade level(s) commencing in January, when the extended or French immersion programs are under consideration.
2. The survey shall contain:
 - 1) information on the three approved programs—core, extended and immersion;
 - 2) an opportunity for parents to indicate their program preference;
 - 3) the conditions for implementation.
3. An information session or sessions may be conducted for interested parents and students by the school staff.
4. The Director or designate, the French Coordinator and local principals will consult to determine program offerings once surveys have been conducted.
5. Planning and implementation strategies, where applicable, shall be well advanced by the end of March.

Staffing

Staffing for French core and extended French programs is provided outside the pupil : teacher ratio (P.T.R.)

Secondary Schools

1. French as a second language shall be provided for students at the secondary level as specified in Ontario Secondary Schools (OSS), and its supporting document, The Ontario Curriculum—Grades 9 and 10: French as a Second Language-Core, Extended and Immersion French.
2. French as a second language programs shall be offered at the grade nine and ten academic and applied levels.
3. French as a second language program should normally be offered at the grade ten, eleven and twelve levels.

4. The prerequisites for entry to an extended program are a minimum of 1260 hours or equivalent. Ontario curriculum documents give the principal the right to permit individual students to enroll in a course for which they may not have the entrance requirements if they have achieved the language competence through other means.
5. Secondary schools will endeavour to provide an extended program subject to sufficient enrolment within the existing pupil: teacher ratio in communities where immersion or extended programs are offered in the elementary schools.

Renfrew County District School Board French Achievement Certificates

1. A Renfrew County District School Board French Achievement Certificate shall be established as an incentive for students to choose core French courses throughout their secondary program and extended or immersion French courses in elementary and secondary schools where they are available. The three levels of the certificate will recognize achievement and differing availabilities of core and extended credits at secondary schools:
 - 1) a gold Ontario Extended French Certificate of Merit will be awarded to students who accumulate seven (7) extended credits. These credits shall consist of a minimum of the sequence of four (4) courses in extended French and a minimum of three (3) courses in other subjects taught in French. This corresponds to the provincial certificate outlined in the French as a Second Language Ontario Curriculum document.
 - 2) a silver Renfrew County Extended French Certificate of Merit will be awarded to students who accumulate six (6) extended credits. These credits shall consist of a minimum of the sequence of four courses in extended French and a minimum of two (2) courses in other subjects taught in French;
 - 3) a Renfrew County Core French Achievement Certificate will be awarded to students who accumulate at least four (4) credits in core French over four years. Students must earn one credit in each of grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve F.S.L. A minimum of three of the four credits must be Level 3 courses or above.

Legal Reference

Education Act S. 8

Ontario Regulation 298—Operation of Schools S. 11; S. 20