

The Board of Education for School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky) offers French Immersion as a Program of Choice.

The Board of Education for School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky) recognizes that B.C. is part of Canada, which by both history and constitution, supports and promotes two official languages.

The Board of Education for School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky) therefore offers French Immersion to allow students to learn the French language and develop an understanding of French culture.

REGULATION

1. Late French Immersion is approved to be offered in Pemberton and Whistler. Late French Immersion will also be offered in the Squamish area until the end of the 2017/2018 school year.
2. Effective September 2014, Early French Immersion will be offered in the Squamish area.
3. There will be two grade levels for entry into the Early French Immersion program – Kindergarten and grade 1. Entry into Early French Immersion at any other grade level will be on the basis of:
 - a) Available space and
 - b) Previous experience with the French language
4. There will be two grade levels for entry into the Late French Immersion program – grades 5 and 6. Entry into Late French Immersion at any other grade level will be on the basis of:
 - a) Available space and
 - b) Previous experience with the French language
5. Intermediate and secondary French Immersion programs are approved to be offered at Don Ross Middle School, Howe Sound Secondary School, Whistler Secondary School, and Pemberton Secondary School.
6. Enrolment:
 - 6.1 Sufficient student enrolment is necessary to warrant establishing and maintaining a French Immersion program. Approximately 20 students are necessary to maintain primary French Immersion classes. Approximately 27 students are necessary to maintain intermediate and secondary French Immersion classes.
 - 6.2 In an effort to provide French Immersion programs, classroom organizations may include:

- i) Multi-age groupings
 - ii) Flexible scheduling
- 6.3 Early or Late French Immersion classes must maintain enrolment levels approximately equal to English program classes offered at the same grade level. A significant reduction in the enrolment of a French Immersion class may necessitate termination of that class.
- 6.4 However, if enrolment is sufficient the following school year, then a class will be organized at that time.
- 6.5 Enrolment caps may be applied to French Immersion classes.
- 6.6 New school locations or new classes within schools for French Immersion will be provided only as sufficient enrolment develops to warrant the organization of a full class.
7. Leaving the French Immersion program, and transferring to an English program in the same school, will require the student's parent/guardian applying for a transfer from their catchment school as per Policy 501.2. If the request for transfer is not able to be accommodated, the student will be required to return to their catchment school, or apply for a transfer to another English program, as space permits.
8. No specific school funding for French Immersion will be provided by the Board. The school will be provided with some federal funding for resources, if made available by the Federal Government.
9. The French Immersion program must conform to Collective Agreements, the School Act and other applicable legislation.
10. Student transportation to a French Immersion program outside of the student's residential attendance area is the responsibility of parents. Transportation to a French Immersion program may be provided if space is available on the school bus.
11. The Board will periodically review the status of French Immersion in the District, particularly as it applies to:
- o Ability to attract and retain qualified staff
 - o in-service requirements to ensure qualified staff
 - o appropriate ratio in "dual track" schools
 - o suitability of establishing new locations and the viability of present locations in relation to student enrolment

12. Registration
 - 12.1 Elementary Schools will advertise registration procedures and details for enrolment in French Immersion in school newsletters.
 - 12.2 The School District will advertise this information in local newspapers and on the School District Web Site.
 - 12.3 Open registration will be taken on a first come, first served basis at the schools housing the program. Each student should be registered by an adult representative. Each adult shall represent only one family.
 - 12.4 Registration will take place simultaneously in schools offering the program, generally in keeping with English Kindergarten registration.
 - 12.5 Where registration exceeds the upper limit of the class enrolment, a wait list will be maintained at the schools housing the program. The top of the wait list will be the name of the next person registered after the last person has been accepted.
13. Re-entry into French Immersion will be based upon considerations which will include program continuity and linguistic competence, as verified by a designated teacher and a district representative.
14. Students who meet the requirements of the French Immersion and Graduation Program, will earn both B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) and a diplôme de fin d'étu des secondaire en Colombie-Britannique.