
The Board of Education, School District No. 48 (Sea to Sky), offers French Immersion as a Program of Choice to allow students to develop the knowledge, skills, and understandings within the British Columbia Curriculum through French language and culture.

REGULATION

1. Late French Immersion is approved to be offered in Pemberton and Whistler.
2. Early French Immersion is offered in the Squamish area.
3. There are 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 the principal reviewing:
 - a. available space;
 - b. whether the student has previous experience with the French language; and,
 - c. the parents’/guardians’ and student’s understanding of the demands of late entry into an immersion program.
4. There are 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 the principal reviewing:
 - a. available space;
 - b. whether the student has previous experience with the French language; and,
 - c. the parents’/guardians’ and student’s understanding of the demands of late entry into an immersion program.
5. Middle 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, and to provide research supported pro-social learning environments, classroom organizations will include multi-age groupings and 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 considered only as sufficient enrolment develops to warrant the organization of a full class.
7. If a student who is enrolled in a French Immersion program withdraws from French during the school year, they will be placed back at their English catchment school. The student may apply to transfer to a school other than their catchment school. For example, they may wish to stay in the out of catchment school they are currently attending for the French Immersion program. Like all transfer requests to out of catchment schools, the student will be placed there if space and facilities are available or waitlisted according to the date and time stamp of their request.
 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. As French Immersion is a program of choice, student transportation is the responsibility of parents. Transportation to a French Immersion program may be provided as courtesy ridership 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:
 - a. the district's ability to attract and retain qualified staff;
 - b. in-service requirements to ensure qualified staff;
 - c. an appropriate ratio in "dual track" schools; and,
 - d. the suitability of establishing new locations and the viability of present locations in relation to student enrolment.

12. Registration

- 12.1 The official School District No. 48 registration dates will be announced annually through local media and the district website. Generally, registration officially opens on the Monday of the last week of January and officially closes at the deadline of 4:00pm on the first day of school;
 - 12.2 Open registration will be taken on a first come, first served basis at the schools housing the program. A new student to the school district must be registered in person at their French Immersion catchment school by either a parent or legal guardian. Previously enrolled students in the district, who are registering for French Immersion, may be registered by an approved adult representative provided the parent has previously notified the school principal that they will be sending a proxy to register their child. Each adult shall represent only one family;
 - 12.3 All student registrations in French Immersion programs are considered to be on a waitlist until the district determines available space. Student placement in French Immersion programs is based on program capacity;
 - 12.4 Where registration exceeds the upper limit of the class enrolment, a waitlist will be maintained at the schools housing the program. The top of the waitlist will be the name of the next person registered after the last person has been accepted. All registrations will be date and time stamped to ensure waitlists are accurately maintained;
 - 12.5 When a student is offered a seat in the French Immersion program, the parent/guardian completes the [French Immersion Registration Confirmation Form](#). Likewise, if the student is not going to take the offered seat in French immersion, the parent fills in the [Withdrawing Child from French Immersion portion of the form](#).
13. Students who meet the requirements of both the BC French and English Graduation Programs will earn both the BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) and a diplôme de fin d'études secondaire en Colombie-Britannique.

Adopted: August 27, 2014

Reviewed: April 12, 2017

March 13, 2019