

Administrative Procedure 217

FRENCH LANGUAGE 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.

Procedures

1. 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. Staff involved in the program are required to review the Policy and ensure compliance.
2. Assistance from the central 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 Early Childhood Services or grade 1 and the program will be available to all those who wish to enroll.
4. The program will be provided in a location where space and facility requirements are acceptable.
5. Students will be made available to student enrolled in French Language Immersion on the same basis as that provided to students in other programs.
6. Students enrolled in the ECS French Immersion Program will receive 100% of their instruction in the French language.
7. The students shall be provided a program of English Language Arts instruction for not less than:
 - 7.1 300 minutes each week for students in Grades 3 to 6.
 - 7.2 150 hours per year for each pupil in each of Grades 7, 8, and 9.
 - 7.3 Not less than 125 hours per year, or the equivalent of 5 credits per year in each of Grades 10, 11 and 12.
8. The content of all courses taught in the French language is to be consistent with the content as prescribed in the Programme d'Etude.

9. Wherever possible, a variety of instructional strategies should be utilized and these should emphasize the development of communication skills and the attainment of those skills and objectives specific to the particular courses taught in French.
10. Adequate in-service opportunities should be made available for teachers to upgrade their teaching skills, mastery of the French language and knowledge of the French culture.