



School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia)

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Late French Immersion Things to Know & Consider

Transportation

Existing school bus routes may work for families getting their child to and/or from the school that houses the LFI program. If, however, district school bussing does not work, transportation then becomes the responsibility of the family. Please note, however, that under certain circumstances, transportation assistance may be available to families, as per the following Board of Education regulation:

Regulation 2.1.4

Adopted: 2004.04.21

Reviewed: 2008.05.15

Revised:

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE:
TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS

- The School District may pay transportation assistance for students residing beyond points serviced by the district's bus routes or for special circumstances acceptable to the Board.
- Parents or guardians of qualifying students must apply in writing to the Secretary- Treasurer.
- The driver of the vehicle must have appropriate licensing for the transportation of students. A minimum liability insurance of \$1,000,000 must be carried on the vehicle.
- Payments will be made monthly after verification of the student's attendance and will be paid at the standard rate.

For transportation questions, please visit our district website at www.sd20.bc.ca, or call the Transportation Manager at 250-365-8331 ext. 804.

Program Information

School District 20 recognizes that French Immersion programming benefits the cognitive and social development of students, as well as their opportunities for career advancement. Research demonstrates that students who successfully complete a French Immersion program attain functional bilingualism while doing as well, or better than, their unilingual peers in the content areas of curriculum, including English Language Arts.

Bilingualism is achieved by providing the majority of instruction of the basic curriculum in French during the first few years of the program. Once a firm base in French has been established, instruction in English Language Arts is added, and instruction broadly in the English language increases. Students continue to receive instruction in certain subjects in French so that by the end of Grade 12, proficiency is achieved in both languages.

The Late French Immersion program provides students with an education equivalent to that which is available in the English language program; in other words, students in an Immersion program will learn the same things as students who are not in an Immersion program, according to the Ministry of Education's prescribed learning

outcomes for each grade. The difference, of course, is that the Late French Immersion Program provides opportunities for students to acquire a high level of proficiency in French. Upon graduation from the program in Grade 12, students should be able to participate easily in French conversations, take post-secondary courses with French as the language of instruction, and accept employment with French as the language of work.

In the first two years of the Late French Immersion program, French will be used to deliver the instructional program for 80% of the time, while English will be used for 20%. Individual schools will determine what this looks like in the classroom. Do not hesitate to ask about how the proportion of French to English instruction will be delivered at your school.

Late French Immersion Students

The Late French Immersion Program is open to all learners; however, it may not be the right choice for all students. While there is no expectation that students or their parents have any French language skills prior to beginning the program, there are some qualities that help to make learners more successful in the program.

To be successful in French Immersion, students should ideally be:

- interested in learning the language
- self-disciplined
- motivated
- hard working; good work ethic
- resilient (not going to give up when faced with the challenge of being immersed in a learning environment with a new and different language)
- good organizational skills
- an eager learner
- very competent in English (reading, speaking, listening and writing)
- interested in completing the program to Grade 12 and receiving an Bilingual Diploma

Late French Immersion Parents

Parents of students enrolled in the Late French Immersion program play a critical role in supporting their child in the program and in turn the level of success he or she experiences. Ideally, parents should be:

- supportive of the program
- honest about their child's abilities, skills and competencies
- willing to support their child through the challenges of learning another language
- committed to supporting their child in the program through to graduation

Q & A

q. As a parent, do I need to know French?

a. No.

q. What costs will I need to incur if my child is successful in securing a seat in the LFI program?

a. No extra costs will be charged to parents as the result of their child being enrolled in the LFI program; costs for this program are no different that costs for non-LFI students. The program is well funded by the Federal Government. All costs to run the program, including learning resources, cultural experiences, technology, and so on, are covered by this funding.

q. Will the teacher speak French all of the time?

a. No. But most of the time. It is essential that students be immersed in the language as much as possible from the beginning in order to maximize their learning of the language.

q. What happens to student skill levels in English?

a. Typically, there will be absolutely no negative effect on a student's level of skills in English. This is because learning a second language is an overall literacy experience (reading, writing, speaking and listening).

q. Will the students have extra work?

a. No. Students will not be expected to do extra work in order to cover the curriculum. The program for the year will be carefully structured to cover the learning outcomes without increasing the workload.

q. What happens if a student cannot keep up with the demands of learning a new language?

a. Every student will engage in this learning opportunity in their own way, bringing to the experience their own level of interest and abilities. Student progress will be carefully monitored. If there are issues of concern, parents will be included in conversations about how to best support their child and their learning.

Did You Know?

- In Canada, approximately 300,000 children are enrolled in French Immersion programs
- French is spoken in 5 of the 7 continents
- French is second only to English for the number of countries where it has official status; it's an official language in 30 countries
- The number of French speakers has tripled since 1945
- Between 1/3 and 1/2 of basic English words come from French
- French is the principal language of world diplomacy
- Of international jobs recently listed and distributed by the US State Department, 82 required or preferred French; 43 required or preferred Spanish; 11 required or preferred Russian; 3 required or preferred Chinese; and 3 required or preferred German
- France is most visited country in the world, with approximately 75 million visitors annually
- Some French inventions include the bicycle, pencil, refrigerator, sewing machine, and many others