

FRENCH-AS-A-SECOND LANGUAGE

C 12.0
NPS 5-99

POLICY:

IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THE NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD to offer to each pupil under its jurisdiction the opportunity to develop his/her linguistic potential to a level of French fluency which satisfies his/her academic, social and vocational needs.

1. PROGRAMS

a) Core

The Board will offer, where possible, an FSL Core program to all pupils under its jurisdiction. Modification of present programs will be considered subject to Ministry directives and/or parental wishes.

This program will continue at the secondary level with advanced and general level courses being offered. A basic level course will be introduced when the need and pupil enrolment justify its inception.

Schools wishing to conform to FSL programs predominant in their area may be granted increased instructional time, should sufficient parental requests and the availability of funds warrant this consideration.

b) Immersion

On an optional basis, Early and Late Immersion programs will be provided, where numbers warrant, to the pupils in North Bay entering the Immersion Junior Kindergarten and Grade 6 Immersion classes respectively.

In deference to those schools not located in North Bay, but which fall within the Board's jurisdiction, special consideration regarding Immersion program accessibility, or an alternate instructional mode, will be accorded to them upon request. Availability of funds and demand will determine if such are feasible.

An extended program may be offered, where warranted, to the Late Immersion pupils at the secondary level. Immersion options, presently available, will be maintained, with the provision to create additional extended courses should enrolment and demand warrant it.

An enriched Immersion program will be provided in the high school to accommodate the academic and linguistic needs of those pupils demonstrating superior French-language skills.

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2. TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

In order to provide the highest calibre of French instruction, the Board will endeavour to engage the best qualified personnel available. Applicants demonstrating a high degree of proficiency and fluency in French will be considered by an interview panel of which at least one specifically qualified member will determine the linguistic competency of the prospective candidate.

In addition to the mandatory qualification to teach French-as-a-Second Language - Part I, the suggested minimal requirements for FSL staffing in the elementary schools would include at least three (3) university courses in French studies.

Due to the specialized nature of instruction at the secondary level, consideration will be given to those applicants holding a degree in French, Francais or a degree in required specific disciplines, such a Histoire and Geographie.

The Board will encourage continuous professional up-grading by all members of its FSL staff by distributing information to the schools pertinent to course availability and bursary incentives. The Board will also encourage existing staff to qualify and to apply for future FSL placement.

3. BUDGET

Striving to ensure excellence in all facets of French-as-a-Second Language instruction, the revenues generated from Ministry subsidies will be the Board's minimal monetary contribution made towards realizing this goal, including necessary start-up funds to procure essential tests, instructional supplies and support materials for new classes.

The FSL Coordinator will be provided with a budget for:

- the implementation of new program materials at the elementary level;
- supplementary instructional resources;
- participating in professional development activities which could involve both the Coordinator and FSL teachers.

4. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS

In the light of current and anticipated curricular innovations and changes, the Board may permit all, or sectors, of the FSL staff to meet as a unit during one or two of the designated professional activity days throughout the year. The FSL Coordinator could indicate the projected needs which would, in turn, be taken into account and incorporated into certain professional activity days by the planning committee.

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5. ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

To enhance and extend second-language learning beyond the classroom, the Board will encourage involvement in French cultural events including class excursions, interprovincial or international exchanges for both individual pupils or pupil groups.

Given the strong Francophone cultural presence in North Bay and in its environs, particular emphasis will be placed on the participation in local events and activities. The utilization of available resources i.e. library, clubs, radio and television will be promoted.

6. IMMERSION PROGRAMS

a) Eligibility

i) Early Immersion

This program will be available in North Bay, on an optional basis, to all pupils who are eligible for Junior or Senior Kindergarten.

Pupils may be admitted into any grade above Senior Kindergarten provided that the principal and the parent(s), after consideration of individual circumstances, agree that such admission is in the best interest of the child.

ii) Late Immersion

All pupils who are promoted to Grade 6, are eligible for enrolment in a Late Immersion program should the number of pupils warrant such a program. Parents of prospective students shall be made aware that a student's motivation to enrol in such a program is a significant factor in predicting the success of the student in the program.

b) Registration

Registration forms for Immersion applicants will be available at all elementary schools. The parents will submit the completed forms to the principal of the Immersion school concerned.

Upon registration in an Immersion program, the principal of the Immersion school will report to the principal of the school from which the pupil originates. This will be done on or before May 31st of each year.

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c) Communicating to Parents

To allow parents to make an informed decision, brochures outlining the facets and implications of both Early and Late Immersion programs will be made available to them.

Pre-registration and information meetings will be held in February for parents considering the Early or Late Immersion option for their child.

A subsequent meeting will be called early in the school year with the intent of maintaining positive communication with the home and encouraging continued parental support and awareness of the program.

Notice of these information meetings will be placed in parish bulletins and school newsletters. Registration procedures will be later advertised in the local newspaper.

d) Exceptional Pupils

In an attempt to encourage continued participation of exceptional pupils, the Board will extend special education services to them in the French language.

e) Immersion Certificate

In recognition of their special achievement and as an incentive for continued participation in the Immersion program at the secondary level, the Board will confer a Certificate of Immersion Studies upon graduates who have successfully accumulated a determined number of Immersion credits available to them.

With anticipated phasing-in of additional secondary Immersion options due to pupil enrolment and demand, the criteria and credit prerequisites for obtaining this certificate will vary as modifications are made.

f) Principals of Immersion

In order to ensure proper supervision of the programs and instruction, principals of Immersion schools should demonstrate a high degree of proficiency and fluency in the French language.