

POLICY – PO521

French Language Programs

Area: Academic Services
Source: Superintendent of Education – Academic Services

Approved: December 8, 2014
Revised: October 27, 2025

1. Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) is committed to providing a strong foundation for French as a second language (FSL) learning through our Core French and French Immersion programs. In both programs, students communicate and interact with growing confidence in French, one of Canada’s official languages, while developing the knowledge, skills and perspectives they need to participate fully as citizens of Canada and the world. Informed by the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), the overarching goal of both programs is to place students in real-life situations where they must use their developing skills in French authentically.

2. Definitions

Nil

3. Purpose

The purpose of the French Language Programs Policy and its attendant administrative procedure is to support student success in French language development through the Board’s FSL programs, including Core French or French Immersion.

4. Application / Scope

This policy and its attendant administrative procedure apply to all schools, educators and administrators offering FSL Programs, both elementary and secondary.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board recognizes:

- 5.1.1 the *Guiding Principles for FSL* as stated in *A Framework for FSL in Ontario Schools, K-12 (2013)*;
- 5.1.2 all students should have equitable access to FSL programs and can be successful in learning French;
- 5.1.3 FSL education serves as a bridge between languages and cultures; and
- 5.1.4 learning FSL strengthens literacy skills as well as cognitive and metacognitive development.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Board commits to offering effective French Language learning and Core French in all schools. Ministry of Education FSL Programs also include optional French Immersion programs which the Board offers at designated schools.
- 6.2 The Board:
 - 6.2.1 will offer support, accommodations, and interventions to meet the diverse needs of all students in French Language programs;
 - 6.2.2 shall encourage and facilitate parental involvement in supporting their child's French language education and participation in French language programs;
 - 6.2.3 will provide a clear and specific process for students to request exemption from French language programs, outlined in the French Language Programs Administrative Procedure (AP521-1); and
 - 6.2.4 will take all reasonable steps to ensure the recruitment and retention of proficient French language educators.
- 6.3 A focus on the retention of the student, in the French Language Program, should be the aim of school administration, educators and parent(s)/guardian(s).
- 6.4 The establishment or elimination of optional and additional French language programs within a defined attendance boundary shall require the approval of the Board.

7. Sources

- 7.1 [A Framework for French as a Second Language in Ontario Schools: Kindergarten to Grade 12](#)
- 7.2 [The Ontario Curriculum: French as a Second Language: Core French Grades 4-8, Extended French Grades 4-8, French Immersion Grades 1-8](#)
- 7.3 [The Individual Education Plan \(IEP\): A Resource Guide](#)
- 7.4 [Common European Framework of Reference \(CEFR\)](#)

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 [French Language Program Exemption or Transfer Administrative Procedure \(AP521-1\)](#)