

PROGRAMS IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Background:

The Division supports courses and programs in languages other than English.

Definitions:

Bilingual Programs:

are partial immersion programs in which the target language, other than French, is the language of instruction for up to 50 per cent of the day. Subjects such as fine arts, health, social studies, physical education, mathematics and science may be taught in the target language.

French Immersion Programming:

is where French is the language of instruction for a significant part of the school day; and several or all subjects, except English Language Arts, are taught in French. The program is designed for students whose first language is not French. The objective is proficiency of the English language, functional fluency in French, and an understanding and appreciation of Francophone culture.

French as a Second Language Courses:

are offered beginning in Grade 4 or Grade 10, and continue to Grade 12. French is taught as a subject to develop communication skills and an understanding and appreciation of Francophone culture.

Second Language Programs:

offer students the opportunity to learn another language and to be able to communicate in this language at a level of fluency and proficiency consistent with Alberta Education student learning outcomes.

Procedures:

1. Instruction in a second language is provided for all students in grades 4 to 6.
2. Instruction in a second language may be provided to students in grades 7 to 12.
3. The choice of language(s) offered at any one school is dependent on community interest, the proficiency of staff and the availability of resources.
4. Transportation to immersion and bilingual programs is provided according to [Board Policy 17: Student Transportation Services](#).
5. French Immersion Programming
 - 5.1. The decision to open or close a bilingual or immersion program is recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Trustees.
 - 5.2. Schools offering French Immersion shall provide Alberta Education's recommended instructional time allocations in French.

- 5.3. English Language Arts shall be provided to all students, consistent with the [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12](#).
- 5.4. A French-speaking administrator shall be appointed in each French Immersion school, when possible.
- 5.5. The Associate Superintendent of Supports for Students shall ensure ongoing support for the program.
- 5.6. In order to facilitate and enhance the French Immersion program direction, a Division French Immersion Advisory Committee shall be established. The Committee will be comprised of one representative from each school offering a French Immersion program, the Second Language Consultant and a central office representative.
- 5.7. The Division French Immersion Certificate requires successful completion of a minimum of 30 credits in French Immersion in senior high including:
 - 5.7.1. French Language Arts 10/20/30; and
 - 5.7.2. At least one other course in French per year.
- 5.8. Three types of certificates are available:
 - 5.8.1. French Immersion Certificate (successful completion of above requirements);
 - 5.8.2. French Immersion Certificate of Merit (as above with a 70 per cent average); and
 - 5.8.3. French Immersion Certificate of Excellence (as above with an 80 per cent average).
6. In schools where bilingual programs are offered, they shall be according to Alberta Education's recommended instructional time allocations.
7. Second language programming shall be offered according to the Alberta Education Program of Studies and [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12](#).

Reference:

Section 52, 53, 196, 197, 222 *Education Act*
Funding Manual for School Authorities
Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12
International Language Programs, Alberta Education