

## SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

### 1. Second Language Instruction

- 1.1. In second language programs, the target language is offered as a subject for a specified number of minutes per week. Second language instruction is mandated from Grades 5 to 8 under the provisions of the Provincial Language Education Policy and is an optional subject in the preceding and subsequent years. Offering a specific language program is the decision of the school and its community, following procedures established by the District. A minimum of 80 minutes per week of instructional time is required at the elementary grades; 12.5% of instructional time at the secondary grades. The goals of this program are to enable students to acquire skills in the language, develop positive attitudes towards the language and language learning, and to gain insight into the culture of the target language.
- 1.2. An exemption to the Language Education policy (Grades 5-8) will apply only to a student who is both:
  - Enrolled in an educational program specified by the Minister, for students with diverse needs
  - OR
  - Receiving English as a second language services as defined by the 1701 form.
  - AND
  - Unable to demonstrate their learning in relation to the intended outcomes of the second language program e.g. French
- 1.3. District students capable of successfully challenging the intended learning outcomes of any language curriculum will be encouraged to do so at the Grade 11 and 12 levels as per the Ministry's Challenge and Equivalency Policy.

### 2. Immersion and Bilingual Programs

- 2.1. In the immersion programs, the target language is taught not only as a subject but is also used as the language of instruction in other subjects. The aims of the program are to enable students to obtain the same education as in the English-language program and to acquire fluency in the target language. Students completing French Immersion to grade 12 will receive a Bilingual Dogwood Certificate upon graduation.
  - 2.1.1. Early French Immersion: offered from Kindergarten through grade 12. French is the language of instruction in K-3. English Language Arts is introduced in grade 4 and Mathematics is usually taught in English at the intermediate level. Most other subjects are taught in French in grades 4 to 7 to ensure that 60% or more of the instruction is in French.

In the secondary school the amount of French language instruction from grades 8 to 10 is 50%. The amount of French in grade 11 is 25% and in grade 12 is 12.5%.

- 2.1.2. Late French Immersion: begins in grade 6. All classroom instruction is in French in grade 6 and English Language Arts is reintroduced in grade 7.
- 2.2. Early Mandarin Bilingual Program: begins in Kindergarten. From the beginning and through grade seven, 50% of instruction will be in Mandarin. As students enter secondary schools, the amount of instruction in Mandarin will decrease. The goal of this program is ultimately to have students graduate with a level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- 2.3. Mandarin Bilingual Program: begins in grade 4. The amount of Mandarin language instruction is up to 50% from grades 4 to 7. In Grade 8 and 9, students have two courses in Mandarin: Mandarin Language Arts and Communication. In grade 10 students move to Grade 11 Core Mandarin.

Reference: Sections 8.2, 17, 20, 22, 65, 75, 85 School Act  
School Regulation 265/89  
Education Program Guide M333/99

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