



FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Background

Board Policy 1: Board Mandate, Mission, Vision, Values and Goals mandates the Board of Trustees of the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division to provide children and parents with a complex offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and tradition. In keeping with the bilingual nature of Canada, French Immersion and / or French as a Second Language Program may be offered in some schools. Knowledge of French and other languages prepare students to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Students gain intercultural awareness as they learn to communicate in French, one of Canada's official languages. Learning French is considered important both to enhance opportunities for living and working throughout Canada and the world, as well as, to foster a greater understanding between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians.

In choosing to deliver French language programs, the Division relies on the Alberta Program of Studies.

Procedures

1. The *Education Act*, Section 17(2) provides authority for school divisions to authorize French as a language of instruction.
2. French Immersion
 - 2.1 Students may enroll in the program starting in Early Childhood Services or Grade One and the program will be available to all those who wish to enroll.
 - 2.2 French is used as the primary language of instruction for a significant part of each school day; several or all subjects are taught in French except for the English Language Arts course.
 - 2.3 The students shall be provided a program of English Language Art instruction for not less than:
 - 2.3.1 300 minutes each week for students in Grades 3 to 6
 - 2.3.2 150 hours per year for each pupil in each of Grades 7, 8, and 9.
 - 2.3.3 Not less than 125 hours per year, or the equivalent of 5 credits per year in each of Grades 10, 11, and 12.
 - 2.4 The content of all courses taught in the French language is to be consistent with the content as prescribed in the Alberta Education Curriculum and / or Program of Studies.

- 2.5 Wherever possible, a variety of instructional strategies should be utilized, and these should emphasize the development of communication skills and the attainment of those skills and objectives specific to the particular courses taught in French.
 - 2.6 Adequate in-service opportunities should be made available for teachers to upgrade their teaching skills, mastery of the French language and knowledge of the French culture.
 - 2.7 Grade 12 students who have completed 30 credits at the high school level including French language Arts 30 will receive the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division French Immersion certificate.
- 3 French as a Second Language
- 3.1 A French as a second language course may be offered as a school subject in elementary or an optional subject in junior and senior high school.