

POLICY STATEMENT

FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

WHEREAS the Halton District School Board recognizes and supports the value to be gained from the teaching and learning of French as a Second Language,

THEREFORE it shall be policy that:

1. students acquire recognizable competency in French, and that
 - 1.1 students have the opportunity to acquire a fundamental level of proficiency in French as defined by the Ministry of Education. This is achieved in Halton through the Core French program which begins in Grade 4 and provides 1080 hours of French between Grades 4 and 12/OACs.
 - 1.2 Students have the opportunity to gain competency in the use of French. This is achieved in Halton through the Extended French program which allows for 2100 hours of French between Grades 7 and 12/OACs.
 - 1.3 Students have the opportunity to become functionally bilingual as defined by the Ministry of Education. This is achieved in Halton through the Immersion French program which provides 5,000 hours of French between Grades 1 and 12/OACs.
2. regional definitions be adopted for program, types of schools and program viability and that:
 - 2.1 at the elementary level, Immersion and Extended French classes consist of 50 percent English and 50 percent French instruction.
 - 2.2 a French Centre provides Immersion and/or Extended French programs to its own pupils. In addition, a designated Centre will provide Immersion and/or Extended French programs to students outside its own catchment area.
 - 2.3 (effective September 1992) elementary Immersion French programs will be offered in centres:
 - Single track Immersion French Centres offer only the Halton Immersion French program where sufficient enrolment warrants and space is available. Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten in English may be offered at Single Track Immersion French Centres.
 - Dual track Immersion French Centres offer the Halton Immersion and/or Extended French programs as well as the full English program.
 - 2.4 an elementary school program is considered viable if it meets the following conditions:
 - there are sufficient students within the school grade structure to establish classes within the prevailing class size requirements:
 - no additional staff resources are required:
 - 2.5 if at the time of registration, Immersion French enrolment (Gr. 1) is below 20, or Extended French enrolment (Gr. 7) is below 30, the program will not be offered at that Centre the following September. If the program fails to register the requisite number of students for two consecutive years in that Centre then the program will be subject to an immediate review of its viability by the Superintendent of Program Services.
3. Immersion and Extended French programs be available in identified schools, and that
 - 3.1 the designation of an appropriate configuration of Centres be the responsibility of Administrative Council.
 - 3.2 Centres be identified for each school year by the previous December.

- 3.3 Designation of French Centres should be considered when school boundaries are restructured, school consolidation occurs or new schools are planned.
- 3.4 to serve as a new Immersion French Centre a school must:
- have a safe site for bus loading, turn around
 - have sufficient accommodation for anticipated growth in Immersion numbers, as well as maintenance of English program while numbers from the school's catchment area warrant.
 - have facilities adequate to provide full program for the grade levels accommodated.
 - have at least 2 identified associate schools when the Centre has a Primary/Junior classes.
4. Immersion French programs be optional programs which are accessible to all students, and that:
- 4.1 transportation to the Centre be provided from designated associate schools in accordance with the eligibility guidelines of the Board's Transportation Policy.
- 4.2 Immersion French programs be provided in Centres.
- 4.3 Single track Immersion French Centres be considered when new Centres are to be determined.
- 4.4 The Principal will provide a recommendation to the parent(s) of prospective Immersion French students to advise the parent(s) of their child's suitability for the program.
- 4.5 Remediation in the French language part of the Halton Immersion programs will be offered within the existing resources allocated to the school.
5. Extended French programs be optional programs which are open to all students, and that:
- 5.1 no transportation be provided.
- 5.2 the Principal will provide a recommendation to the parent(s) of prospective Extended French students to advise the parent(s) of their child's suitability for the program.
- 5.3 Remediation in the French language part of the Halton Extended French programs be offered within the existing resources allocated to the school.
- 5.4 The viability of Halton Extended French Programs be reviewed upon receipt of the new Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines for Extended French programs.
6. Regional criteria for Secondary Immersion French programs be that:
- 6.1 an Immersion French program may be established in a composite secondary school when sufficient enrolment exists.
- 6.2 an Immersion French program should be considered when planning a new school.
- 6.3 an Immersion French program may be considered when the school has:
- sufficient Grade 9 enrolment to sustain the program to the Grade 12 level
 - a plan to sustain the enrolment to the Grade 12 level
 - the staff resources to offer a varied and balanced academic program without restricting student choice in the elective areas
 - the capability to ensure the integrity of the subject
 - Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines for subjects offered in the French language.
 - Class sizes within the prevailing class size requirements.