

NLSchools refers to all public K-12 English schools and school-related facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education, Education Operations Branch and all employees working therein, and all employees providing services and supports to such schools, including those who work in the areas of school facilities, student transportation, program implementation, student services, and procurement.

Policy Name

French Programs

Policy Statement

The Department of Education supports the study of French as an additional language and is committed to the implementation of programs that support the study of French within NLSchools.

Background

Learning French as an additional language enables students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to communicate in French in a variety of school, travel, leisure and job-related contexts. Bilingualism expands future opportunities for students. It is important that students are offered opportunities to develop the appropriate communication skills, allowing them to become active, contributing members of the global community. A variety of program options in the context of the provincially prescribed curriculum enables students to work toward this desired outcome.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all schools within NLSchools.

Definitions

Core French

The Core French Program (Grade 4 through to French 3200) is a required curriculum component in Grades 4-9. Students may choose to continue the Core French Program in senior high. The Core French Program is defined by outcomes at the end of each level: elementary, intermediate, and senior high. The skills and the content of each level provide

the essential preparation for successful experiences at higher levels. The Program primarily emphasizes the development of language skills and the understanding and use of vocabulary and language patterns in context.

Intensive Core French (ICF)

Intensive Core French is an enrichment of the Core French Program in Grade 6. The program involves three to four times the number of hours regularly scheduled for French additional language in a concentrated period of time (5 months) that is attained through curriculum compacting in other subject areas. In the other five-month period, students return to their regular curriculum including Core French.

French Immersion (Early and Late)

French Immersion consists of programs and courses designed for students for which French is their additional language; French is the language of instruction and, as much as possible, the means of communication within the classroom. French Immersion serves to achieve the Essential Graduation Learnings.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, two options in French Immersion studies are available: Early French Immersion (EFI) and Late French Immersion (LFI).

Early French Immersion extends from Kindergarten to Level III, beginning at the Kindergarten level with virtually 100 per cent of instruction in French. With the introduction of English Language Arts at Grade 3, and other subjects in English in later grades, the percentage of instructional time in French decreases through the years of schooling.

Late French Immersion extends from Grade 7 to Level III with approximately 75 per cent of instruction in French in Grades 7 and 8. The percentage of instruction in French decreases through the years of schooling with 30 per cent of instruction in Grade 9 and specific courses at each level in senior high.

Policy Directives

- 1.1 Core French is part of the regular program for all students in Grades 4-9 in NLSchools.
- 1.2 NLSchools supports the implementation of French Programming options where

interest and adequate resources make the program viable. These programs include Early French Immersion, Late French Immersion and Intensive Core French.

- 1.3 Multi-grading and multi-aging may be utilized in existing Early/Late French Immersion programs in communities where there is a single system of schools and the program is experiencing declining enrollment.
- 1.4 Transportation is not provided for students to avail of French Program options outside their designated school zone, in accordance with the Student Transportation Division, School Transportation Policies. In cases where legacy situations exist outside policy, they will be addressed through future school system reorganization processes.

Administrative Procedures

The Superintendent of Schools or designate is responsible for the monitoring and implementation of the French Programs Policy.

NLSchools offers the following French-language programs are offered within NLSchools::

1. Core French (Elementary/Intermediate)

- 1.1 All students in Grades 4-9 complete Core French.
- 1.2 Students with exceptionalities shall participate in Core French, availing of supports specified in an Individual Learning Plan.
- 1.3 If a Program Planning Team (PPT) feels that exemption from Core French should be considered, the Principal shall consult with Senior Management Official (Student Services) and meet to discuss the student's individual learning portfolio. Only after written approval from the Senior Management Official (Student Services) shall a child with a diagnosed exceptionality be exempted from Core French.

2. Early and Late French Immersion

- 2.1 Registration in Early French Immersion and Late French Immersion is subject to the Registration and Transfer Procedures for French Programs.
- 2.2 The recognized entry point for Early French Immersion is Kindergarten. Requests for entry at any other grade level may be considered in exceptional circumstances and there must be consultation between the school administration and Senior Management Official (Programs).
- 2.3 The department will determine the number of students accepted into the Early French Immersion program in a school each year, according to the number of class

groups the school has the capacity to sustain. Class groups will be designated based on multiples of 27 with consideration for the overall enrollment.

- 2.4 The recognized entry point for Late French Immersion is Grade 7. Requests for entry at any other grade level may be considered in exceptional circumstances and there must be consultation between the school administration and the Senior Management Official (Programs).
- 2.5 The department will determine the number of students accepted to the Late French Immersion program in a school each year, according to the number of class groups a school has the capacity to sustain. Class groups will be designated based on multiples of 32 with consideration for the overall enrollment.
- 2.6 A new French Immersion program (EFI and LFI) may be approved if a school has a sustained three stream enrollment or population projection; the program can be offered within the staffing allocation, and it does not cause an established program in another school to become non-viable.
- 2.7 Students in Early and Late French Immersion programs are expected to stay in the program for the entire year in which they are registered. Requests to leave a French Immersion program during the school year may be approved by NLSchools if there is no impact to the overall number of classes at that grade level.
- 2.8 If a student enrolled in French Immersion outside their catchment zone is approved to leave the program, the student will return to their neighbourhood school if there is no impact to class caps there. Otherwise, the student will remain in their current school and return to their zoned school at the end of the school year.

3. Intensive Core French (ICF)

- 3.1 In schools offering the ICF option, registration packages and information about the program shall be provided for all Grade 5 students and their parents or guardians in January.
- 3.2 Schools with full ICF implementation are not required to conduct a registration process.
- 3.3 In areas where there is not full implementation, the deadline for registration for Intensive Core French at the school level is the end of January.
- 3.4 Principals of schools where ICF is offered shall inform the department of their final registration numbers during the first week of February.
- 3.5 Upon completion of ICF registration, and a determination of viability within the

staffing allocation for each school, the department shall determine ICF programming for the following year.

- 3.6 Where registration numbers exceed the class cap of 28, or multiple thereof, a numbered waitlist will be created by each school using the registrations received by the deadline.
- 3.7 NLSchools, through the school, shall notify all parents or guardians of the status of their child's registration before the end of the May.
- 3.8 Students attending schools where ICF is not offered, but are interested in the program, may request transfer to other schools which offer the program and have space available. Parents or guardians who avail of this option shall be responsible for their own student transportation.
- 3.9 Students who transfer into a school after the ICF registration deadline may register for the program where space is available.
- 3.10 ICF is not a prerequisite or pre-entry course for Late French Immersion.

4. Intermediate/Senior High French Programs

In the transition process from the intermediate school to senior high school, school principals shall inform Grade 9 students of the French program options available at the senior high level. French studies at the senior high level can satisfy all four credits in the category of Other Required Credits for graduation requirements.