

## FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

The Seven Oaks School Division acknowledges its responsibility and desire to provide to the students in our community instruction in the French language. In doing so, it recognizes the pre-eminence of the overall goals and objectives of the school division, the status of French as an Official Language in Canada, and the provision for French language education in the Manitoba Public Schools Act.

The goals and objectives of the school division for the maximum development of every student are the main focus of all programs including French language programs. As such, provision will be made for instruction in French according to two program models, namely the French Immersion Program and the Basic French Program, as outlined in the following guidelines.

### A. The French Immersion Program

French Immersion is intended for students whom French is a second language. The underlying assumption is that the program will be provided as number of students warrant the development and maintenance of a viable, comprehensive, ongoing program.

#### 1. Basic Objectives

The objectives of the immersion program are to enable students to:

- (a) understand, speak, read and write French;
- (b) pursue further education with French as the language of instruction;
- (c) live and function well in a French-speaking community;
- (d) develop cross-cultural awareness and understanding.

#### 2. Organization

##### (a) Entry

- (i) The French immersion program is an alternative to the English-based program and is voluntary - students enter and discontinue in the program at parental option in accordance with (ii) below;

#### 2. Organization (Cont'd.)

- (ii) Students may enter the program only at Kindergarten and/or Grade 1 (early

immersion) or Grade 7 (late immersion) - as numbers warrant.

(b) Kindergarten - Grade 5

- (i) The Board recognizes two different logistical formats for teaching French as a language of instruction hereinafter referred to as French Immersion.

FORMAT 1

The Immersion Centre: This is defined as a school building in which all of the registered children are enrolled in a French Immersion program.

FORMAT 2

The Dual Track School: This is defined as a school in which all children in some classes are registered in a French Immersion Program but that there are other children registered in a full English program also occupying the same school building.

The Seven Oaks School Division Board recognizes both approaches to French Immersion Education as viable and successful formats for the education of children, with neither approach being inherently better or worse than the other.

- (ii) All instruction other than English Language Arts will be given in French.

(c) Grades 6 – S4

- (i) The program will exist with other programs at locations and in settings which permit the meeting of program objectives;
- (ii) A minimum of 50% of instruction will be given in French.

B. The Basic Program

1. Basic Objectives

The Basic French Program is designed to permit and assist students to

achieve:

- (a) a basic knowledge of French;
- (b) the ability to participate/communicate in French conversation;
- (c) the ability to read standard, non-technical French text with minimal or no aid; and,
- (d) the ability to resume the study of French later in life.

2. Organization

(a) Entry

All students other than those in French Immersion will study Basic French in Grades 4 - 8 unless parents, teachers, and administration consider it inadvisable in individual cases; such cases to be determined only after every possible avenue has been exhausted to have the student remain in the program.

(b) Grades 4 - 8

A Basic French instructional allotment of 10% or more of the instructional day is recommended, to engage students in meaningful activities.

(c) Grades S1 – S4

Basic French will be provided as an option as numbers warrant.

C. Related Issues

1. Teacher Qualifications and Development

- (a) Basic French teachers must be functionally bilingual. Immersion teachers, must be fluently bilingual and knowledgeable in second language methodology.
- (b) Bilingual substitutes must be employed whenever possible in the Immersion program.
- (c) French Language teachers will receive additional professional upgrading as deemed desirable and appropriate by the teacher, the administrator and the Superintendents' Department.

2. Funding

- (a) Where a French language program is approved as per legislation, Departmental funds, where provided, will be designated toward that program.

- (b) Where a French language program is approved by the Board of Trustees, establishment and development funds will be provided.

3. Student and Program Evaluation

- (a) Reporting to parents on student progress must be made available in English at the option of the parent.
- (b) All French language programs must be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

4. Related Linguistic and Cultural Enrichment

The administrator and teachers of a school will determine the extent to which special culturally related experiences can and will be incorporated into French Language programs.

5. Other Issues

All residents of Seven Oaks School Division will be informed of all development in the area of French language instruction.