

## HERITAGE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Language is both the repository and transmitter of a group's culture, history, and traditions. The study of heritage languages strengthens Manitoba's linguistic and cultural heritage, and promotes intercultural and cross-cultural understanding.

Heritage languages are taught in the Seven Oaks School Division system either as:

- a regular subject (basic heritage language course) or
- as a language of instruction (bilingual program), or
- as a language of instruction in an after-school program

The Seven Oaks School Division recognizes its responsibility in our community to provide, under certain conditions, instruction in languages other than English or French. The following guidelines form a basis for a comprehensive approach to such instruction in Seven Oaks School Division.

### A. General Guidelines

The goals and objectives of the school division for the maximum development of every student must be the main focus of all language programs. As such:

1. Programs will be provided only in situations where a high level of education can be maintained;
2. Programs will be open to all students who qualify for entry points as established by this policy;
3. Programs will be made available as outlined in legislation or as the Board determines;
4. Programs will be provided only where numbers of students warrant development of a viable, comprehensive, ongoing program.
5. Students will not, other than in exceptional circumstances, be displaced from their designated community school by a language program; students who enroll in language programs may need to attend school outside their communities to ensure necessary numbers.

### B. Modes of Instruction

Depending on the mode of instruction deemed to be most desirable to meet divisional and language program objectives, the following organizational models will be employed as indicated.

1. Heritage Language - English Bilingual:

- (a) K-6 - A minimum of 50% instruction in the Heritage Language;
- (b) 7-S4 - Heritage Language Arts option as numbers warrant;
- (c) Entry Point - Kindergarten and/or Grade 1.

2. After School Heritage Language:

- (a) Any request for a Heritage Language Program must include a petition with signatures of Seven Oaks residents representing at least 15 school age children in total;
- (b) Upon receipt of such request a survey to determine further level of interest will be conducted;
- (c) The standard procedure will be to operate classes conducted by the Division at age appropriate levels of instruction;
- (d) No class at a given age grouping will begin unless there is registration of 10 children;
- (e) Classes will operate a minimum of two days per week (45 - 60 minutes per day);
- (f) Attendance will be evaluated during the school year (end of January) and re-evaluated each Fall. Should regular attendance in a class fall below the required minimum, that class may be terminated;
- (g) Parents with children in a Heritage Language Program will be informed of this policy.

3. Language Examination for Special Credit:

- (a) S1-S4 - As outlined in Administrative and Department of Education guidelines;

(b) Entry point - By application as per guidelines.

C. Teacher Qualifications and Development

1. Heritage Language teachers must be fluently bilingual.
2. Bilingual substitutes must be employed whenever possible.
3. Language teachers will receive additional professional upgrading as deemed desirable and appropriate by the teacher, the administrator and the Superintendents' Department.

D. Funding

1. Where a language program is approved as per legislation, Departmental funds, where provided, will be designated toward that program.
2. Where a language program is approved by the Board of Trustees, establishment and developmental funds will be provided.

E. Student and Program Evaluation

1. Reporting to parents on student progress will be in English.
2. All language programs must be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

F. Related Linguistic and Cultural Activities

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

G. Other Issues

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