

LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Background

The District supports the development of language skills to assist students to live and function more effectively in British Columbia's ethno-culturally-diverse environment and in a bilingual Canada.

The District affirms English as the primary language of communication and work in British Columbia and is committed to developing proficiency in English for all its students.

The District recognizes Canada's two official languages including the rights of Francophone parents under Section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The District endorses the learning of Aboriginal languages and acknowledges the need to support the language preferences of local Indigenous peoples.

The District supports the offering of second language instruction in accordance with the <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/english-language-learners/guidelines.pdf>.

The District recognizes that an individual school community might wish to have a language other than French taught as the second language in their school. Offering a specific language program is the decision of the school and its community, following procedures established by the District.

The District affirms its commitment to fostering heritage languages by continuing to make space available for those language programs offered outside the public school system.

The District is committed to recognizing the language proficiency, which some students have acquired outside of formal schooling.

Procedures

1. Program Organization

- 1.1 English is part of Foundation Studies. All students, except those enrolled in Program cadre de François, are required to successfully complete a Grade 12 level Language Arts English course in order to graduate.
- 1.2 The District offers French Immersion from Grades K-12 in five schools. French Immersion is a program in which French is used as the language of instruction for most of the program. The purpose of immersion is to enable students to learn and become proficient in French.

- 1.3 Only Aboriginal languages with a provincial curriculum for Grades 5-8 will be eligible to meet the second language requirement.
 - 1.4 Core French, the second language offered in the District, is offered in Grades 5-8, with a minimum time allotment of 80 minutes per week. It is also offered as an elective course in Grades 9-12 along with other languages such as Spanish, Punjabi and Japanese.
 - 1.5 The District will co-ordinate the second language(s) offered in its schools to ensure there is continuity of instruction in the same language for a student in Grades 5-8.
2. Procedures to Select an Alternate Second Language Program: Grades 5-8
 - 2.1 Proposals for an Alternate Second Language Program from Grades 5-8 must be school and community-based.
3. Process for the Development of a School and Community-Based Proposal for an Alternate Language Program: Grades 5-8
 - 3.1 The Principal will hold an information meeting, facilitated by the District Administration for Programs and Planning, with the school community. The meeting will include information about provincial and District language education policies and the procedures to be followed in developing a school and community-based proposal.
 - 3.2 The school's Parents' Advisory Council must support the exploration of the feasibility of the proposed program change.
 - 3.3 Once exploration of the feasibility is approved, the Principal and appropriate staff will gather the following information:
 - 3.3.1 Intended enrolment (age, grade levels, characteristics, educational needs, number of students);
 - 3.3.2 Statistical information on the transiency rate within the school;
 - 3.3.3 Evidence that the District is capable of providing continuity of instruction and stability in the alternate Second Language Program at the Grade 8 level;
 - 3.3.4 Evidence that qualified staff is in place, or can be put in place, to teach the alternate Second Language Program and that there is sufficient staff to endure continuity and stability of the program in the long term;
 - 3.3.5 Availability of provincially-approved curriculum and appropriate curriculum resources;
 - 3.3.6 Financial requirements based on staffing needs, space requirements, curriculum resources, professional development, curriculum development, long-term resource needs and any other additional funding requested from the District; and
 - 3.3.7 Information about any expected outside funding.

3.4 The Alternate Language Proposal will be referred to the Superintendent of Schools prior to November 15 of any school year.

*Reference: Sections 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85 School Act
School Regulation 265/89
Educational Program guide M333/99
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Language Education Policy and Guidelines*

SD No. 40 (New Westminster)

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Modification to this document is not permitted without prior written consent from SD No. 40 (New Westminster)