

How can I support my child in Early French Immersion?

It is important to note that it is not necessary to speak French in order to help your child in the French Immersion Program. You can provide invaluable support in any or all of the following ways:

- Read in French and/or English with your child every day.
- Notice and talk about the commonalities between French and English.
- Watch French television with your child.
- Get to know your child's teachers, participate in parent-teacher interviews, and make a point to contact the teachers if you have questions regarding your child's progress.
- Show an interest in what your child is learning. On a regular basis, encourage him or her to talk about what he or she has been learning.
- Invest in a reputable bilingual dictionary for home use.
- Rent, buy or loan French language DVDs and books.
- Take advantage of local French cultural events.
- Join *Canadian Parents for French*. CPF provides a strong base of support for parents with children in French second language programs. Examples of support include; French public speaking opportunities and summer camps for students, as well as information and resources for parents.



Please contact your school principal for eligibility in your area.

Useful Links:

www.hrsb.ns.ca
www.ednet.ns.ca
www.cpf.ca

Halifax Regional School Board
 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 4S8
 Phone: 902.464.2000
 Website: www.hrsb.ns.ca



Every Student Can Learn.
 Every School Can Improve.

French Second Language Programs

Early French Immersion



What is Early French Immersion?

The French Immersion program is designed for students whose first language is not French. The early immersion program begins in Grade Primary.

French Immersion is a very effective approach to learning French as a second language. French Immersion allows students to become functionally fluent in French while achieving all the required learning outcomes of the curriculum offered in Nova Scotia public schools.

What is the percentage of classes offered in French?

Percentage of French instruction in Early Immersion Programs:

- **Primary-Grade 2:** 90%-100% (may vary due to Music and Physical Education)
- **Grades 3-6:** 80%-85% (formal instruction in English as a subject is introduced)
- **Grades 7-9:** 70-75%
- **Grades 10-12:** minimum of nine credits taught in French (50%)

Many language concepts and skills learned and developed in French are similar to those applied in English. Studies supported by CASLT (Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers) have shown that bilingual students “appear to have a number of intellectual advantages” which in turn “pushes the brain to mature earlier”. Recent results on standardized provincial evaluations, for example, have shown that English language skills of Nova Scotia students enrolled in French Immersion Programs were at an above average level.

What grade level offers Early French Immersion?

The Early French Immersion Program is offered in designated schools within the Halifax Regional School Board. The Program begins in Grade Primary and extends to Grade 12.



The Early French Immersion Program is designed to enable all students to:

- Communicate effectively in French using listening, speaking, viewing, reading, writing, as well as other means of representation
- Work and study purposefully, both independently and in groups
- Solve problems individually and collaboratively
- Encourage personal development of skills, attitudes and values
- Express ideas and feelings using various forms of communication
- Locate, evaluate, adapt, create and share information using a wide range of sources and technologies.

What does the research indicate?

According to the Canadian Education Association (1992), research over the years has found no negative impact on students' first language skills. Research has indicated that what a student knows and understands about one language can often be used to support knowledge and understanding of a second language (language transfer). Thus, the reading, writing, and interpretation skills that your child is learning and practising in French may also help him or her make new connections in his or her first language.

How do students obtain a French Immersion Certificate?

In order to obtain a French Immersion Certificate upon graduation, students must successfully complete French Language Arts 10, 11, and 12, as well as six other French Immersion courses during their three years of high school.

