

FRENCH SECOND LANGUAGE POLICY

Note: The French Second Language Policy will be implemented in the context of related policies of the Halifax Regional School Board - e.g. “Creating School Populations” and “Student Transportation”

1.0 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) encourages all students to develop language skills which will assist them to live and function more effectively in their ethno-culturally diverse, bilingual country.
- 1.2 French language and culture are important, not only in our country, province and region but also in the global community. Learning a second language contributes to academic and social development. Accordingly, French Second Language Programs have been implemented across the region.
- 1.3 The Halifax Regional School Board is committed to providing students with opportunities to access a variety of French Second Language Programs.
- 1.4 In keeping with the Public School Program, by September 1999 French* will be a required course from Grade 4 to Grade 9.

*PLEASE NOTE: Where offered, Mi’kmaq or Gaelic will fulfill this requirement.

2.0 GOALS

The Halifax Regional School Board will offer second language programming and resources to provide students with the opportunities to acquire proficiency in the French language.

To achieve this goal:

- 2.1 The French classroom will be a total French environment;

- 2.2 The students will be exposed to a first language or near first language instructional fluency;
- 2.3 Program emphasis will be on effective communication and interaction in all forms in the French language.
- 2.4 French second language instruction and assessment will reflect an approach that promotes communication based on real life contexts.
- 2.5 Teaching practices and assessments will be designed to stimulate a desire for French language acquisition and cultural understanding.
- 2.6 There will be continuity of regional bilingual staff support for French second language programs to complement school-based leadership and development.
- 2.7 Opportunities to expand French second language programs will be pursued to ensure reasonable and widespread access to all program alternatives.

3.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In keeping with the Public School Program, all French Second Language Programs shall be taught in French.

The Halifax Regional School Board provides its students with the opportunity to learn the French language by offering a compulsory French Core Program (1999 - including Grade 9). Alternatives to the French Core Program will include: Extended Core French, Early French Immersion and Late French Immersion Programs which will be offered at designated schools and will parallel English Program instruction as much as possible. Although the four programs differ in the number of hours of instruction in French, all programs have as their common goal the development of the highest level of proficiency possible.

3.1 CORE FRENCH

The Core French Program shall be taught in all schools from Grade 4 to Grade 12, unless the school has been designated as a single track French Immersion school. The Core French Program is scheduled for a minimum of 30 minutes a day from Grade 4 to Grade 6. In Grades 7 to Grade 9, French will be offered for a minimum 150 minutes a week, although a daily exposure to the target language is strongly recommended. In Grades 10 to 12, instructional time in French will correspond to the provincial requirement of 110 hours per credit.

3.2 *EXTENDED CORE FRENCH*

The Extended Core French Program shall be taught in designated schools beginning in Grade 7 and ending in Grade 12. The Program includes a French Language Arts course and a Social Studies course where the language of instruction is French.

Wherever possible, the same teacher will teach both French and Social Studies at each grade level.

The total amount of time allotted for the Extended Core French Program courses shall equal the total amount of time allotted for English Language Arts and Social Studies taught in English.

3.3 *EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION*

The Halifax Regional School Board provides the Early French Immersion Program in designated schools. The Early French Immersion Program begins at the Primary level and continues through Grade 12. The curriculum provided is that prescribed by the Department of Education with the percentage of instruction in the French Language apportioned as follows:

P-Grade 2	90- 100%
Grades 3 - 6	80 - 85%
Grades 7 - 9	60 - 75%
Grades 10 - 12	minimum of 9 credits taught in French

3.4 *LATE FRENCH IMMERSION (7-12)*

The Late French Immersion Program shall be offered in designated schools from Grades 7 to 12.

Students in Grades 7 to 9 will have a minimum of 70-75% instruction in French in at least 5 courses.

Students in Grades 10 to 12 must obtain a minimum of 9 French credits in total having at least 2 credits at each grade level, of which 1 of these 2 must be French Language Arts.