

French as a Second Language Programs

Board Policy

Policy Adopted:	February 2021
Revision Date:	June 2025
Responsibility:	Superintendent of Education, Elementary Programs Superintendent of Education, Secondary Programs

1. Objective

The objective of this policy is to outline the Halton District School Board's (HDSB) commitment to providing students with access to high-quality French as a Second Language (FSL) programs. This policy supports the implementation of both Core French and French Immersion programs in alignment with the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum expectations.

The policy seeks to foster linguistic and cultural competence, promote bilingualism, and encourage lifelong language learning. It aims to ensure equity of access to French programs for all students, including those with diverse learning needs, and to support their achievement and well-being in a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment.

2. Policy Statement

The HDSB is committed to:

- a) Providing quality programs which help students to communicate and interact with growing confidence in French.
- b) Developing, supporting, and making available Core and Immersion French programs across the system.
- c) Acknowledging that every student can succeed in French class.
- d) Providing equity of access to Core and Immersion programs which include Multilingual Literacy Learners and students with special education needs.
- e) Ensuring that Core and Immersion programs are inclusive and reflective of a diverse community.

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- f) Providing transportation as outlined in the [Transportation Policy](#) to ensure equity of access to French Immersion programs.

3. Scope

This policy applies to students in grades 1-12 attending schools within the jurisdiction of the HDSB.

4. Guiding Principles

The HDSB recognizes and values the importance of learning French as a Second Language. As one of Canada's two official languages, French connects students to a rich cultural heritage and a global community. Through learning French, students gain confidence in communication and develop an appreciation for the diverse francophone communities worldwide. Furthermore, learning French enhances students' English proficiency and enhances reasoning, problem-solving and creative thinking skills.

5. Definitions

"Core French Program" - Beginning in grade 1, elementary students learn French as a subject, with English as the primary language of instruction in all other subjects. At the secondary level, students are required to complete one credit in French, and have the opportunity to continue French until Grade 12.

"French Immersion Program" - Beginning in grade 2, elementary students receive instruction primarily in French during the initial years, with a gradual introduction of English as students progress. By the secondary level, students accumulate a minimum of ten credits in French, including four French language courses and six additional subjects taught in French.

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Related Board Policies and Governance Procedures

[Transportation Policy](#)

Related Board Administrative Procedures

[Selection of Instructional and Library Resources Administrative Procedure](#)

[French as a Second Language Administrative Procedure](#)

Related Legislation and Industry Documents

[French as a Second Language Curriculum](#)

[Including Students with Special Education Needs in French as a Second Language Programs - A Guide for Ontario Schools](#)

[Welcoming English Language Learners into French as a Second Language Programs](#)

Policy Due for Review: June 2029

Revision History

- June 2025 (M25-063) - Comprehensive Review
 - revised Policy reflects updated terminology, includes equity and inclusion considerations, and aligns with Ministry direction and the HDSB's 2024–2028 Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)