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## French as a Second Language

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### 1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Halton District School Board (HDSB) recognizes and supports the value gained from the learning of French as a Second Language. French is one of Canada's two official languages and is a language widely used around the world. Students learn to communicate and interact with growing confidence in French, while developing the knowledge, skills, and perspectives they need to participate fully as citizens in Canada. Students learn about and appreciate cultural diversity around the world, through the study of various francophone communities. Learning French as a Second Language also strengthens English language skills and enhances reasoning, problem solving and creative thinking skills.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

The HDSB offers Core French and French Immersion programs.

*Core French* – Elementary students learn French as a subject and in all other subjects, English serves as the language of instruction. At the secondary level, students are required to complete one credit in French. The program continues from Grades 9 to 12.

*French Immersion* – Elementary students are taught French as a subject and French serves as the primary language of instruction in the beginning years of the program. English and French are more evenly used as the language of instruction as the students move throughout the grades. At the secondary level, students accumulate a minimum of ten credits in French: four are French language courses and six are other subjects in which French is the language of instruction.

### 3. PRINCIPLES

The HDSB is committed to:

- Providing quality programs which help students to communicate and interact with growing confidence in French
- Supporting, developing and making available Core and Immersion French programs across the system.
- Providing students and teachers with materials to support student achievement in Core and Immersion French programs
- Providing equity of access to Core and Immersion French programs by acknowledging that all students can meet success in French language learning
- Providing Core and Immersion French programs which include English language learners and students with special education needs and are inclusive and reflective of a diverse community.
- Providing equity in participation in French Immersion programs by providing transportation as outlined in the [Transportation Policy](#)

### **Board References:**

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