

SUBJECT	N.E.P.N. CODE
BILINGUAL INSTRUCTION: FRENCH IMMERSION EDUCATION	IHBEBA

I. POLICY

The Louis Riel School Board endorses Manitoba Education’s vision for the French Immersion Program:

The goal of the French Immersion Program is to develop proud, confident, engaged, plurilingual global citizens. The French Immersion Program enables students to interact spontaneously, autonomously, and confidently in French with pride and ease. They seek opportunities to engage in the Francophone community. Their identity as Canadian citizens, competent in both French and English, creates lifelong opportunities and fosters openness to other languages and cultures. ([The Vision for the French Immersion Program in Manitoba: A Renewed Vision, 2017](#))

The Board recognizes the positive impact of an additional language on students’ general cognitive abilities and communication skills. Accordingly, the Board endorses the provision of opportunities for all students in the Louis Riel School Division to learn the French language.

Further, the Board acknowledges the status of English and French as the official languages of Canada. The Board therefore values the continued implementation of a French Immersion Program and related services for any students residing in the Division who have little or no prior knowledge of, or opportunity for contact with, the French language outside the school environment.

The Board believes that the French Immersion Program supports student learning in several critical aspects by:

- maximizing the number of natural and authentic situations, in the school environment, that require and therefore promote communication in the French language
- developing linguistic competence in the French language in conjunction with the mastery of the English language

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- integrating study of the French language with study of the curriculum content prescribed for all students in Manitoba
- developing students' identity which is constantly evolving through their interactions with their environment and with others
- creating a sense of belonging to the Francophone community as well as participation in and contribution to this community
- promoting an appreciation of the French peoples and their cultural diversity in Canada and in other regions of the world, and in so doing, strengthens students' understanding of the relationship between cultural and linguistic development

The Board is committed to supporting the continued evolution and long-term sustainability of the French Immersion Program in the Louis Riel School Division; therefore, it believes that adherence to specific principles and practices, as outlined in **GUIDELINES** and **PROCEDURES**, are critical to maintain and enhance the program's integrity and effectiveness.

II. GUIDELINES

A. School Organization, Program Planning and Delivery

1. The Louis Riel School Division shall provide the opportunity for students to access a continuous program from Kindergarten to the end of Grade 12 in French Immersion Schools, as defined by provincial policy.
2. The French language shall be the instructional language for all subjects except English Language Arts.
3. Communication with parents shall occur in the English language.
4. French Immersion schools shall introduce the study of English Language Arts in Grade 2 as supported in [section 1.1 of the Provincial Curriculum Policy for the French Immersion Program](#).
5. The Louis Riel School Division's strategic and long-term planning shall provide the appropriate human, material, and facilities resources for the French Immersion Program.
6. French Immersion schools' locations in the Division shall provide opportunity for the Division's students to access the French Immersion Program.
7. Program expectations shall adhere to divisional and provincial curricula.
8. Resources for information and communication technology (ICT) will strive to support French Immersion Programming to the greatest extent possible.

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B. Administrative and Human Resources Support

1. The Superintendent of Schools will ensure that senior administrative personnel who supervise French Immersion Schools understand and support the French Immersion approach to teaching and learning the French language.
2. To promote the learning environment necessary for French language acquisition, all staff in French Immersion schools (administrative, teaching, and non-teaching) will be bilingual, as determined by the Division’s ability to recruit and employ bilingual staff.

C. Student Services Support

1. French Immersion schools support the values of inclusive education; therefore, students enrolled in the French Immersion Program who require special learning supports shall, whenever feasible, have access to the same school-based and divisional services as students in the English Program.

D. Professional Development to Support the French Immersion Program

1. Teachers and administrators of French Immersion programs shall access divisional curriculum services and supports for the program in French.
2. Teachers and administrators shall access professional development in the French language through the Division’s Personal Professional Development Fund.
3. Division-based teaching staff that support French Immersion Schools shall possess an understanding of both the French Immersion philosophy and the strategies that support effective second language teaching and learning.

E. Registration for and Promotion of the French Immersion Program

1. The process of student registration in the French Immersion Program shall be congruent with that of the English Program.
2. All students residing in the Louis Riel School Division are eligible to register for the French Immersion Program at established entry points (see Procedures E.4 & E.5).
3. The Louis Riel School Division shall promote the benefits of learning French.

III. PROCEDURES

A. School Organization, Program Planning, and Delivery

1. Ongoing communication between the divisional and school administration and the participation of teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, and students is an integral part of planning to support program delivery and instruction.
2. Congruent with the community’s support for second language learning, French will be the operative language in the Division’s French Immersion schools, and

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- the French language and culture are visible in the school in the form of signs, bulletin boards, displays, school concerts, and extra-curricular activities.
3. French Immersion schools provide various required and optional courses as feasible in the French language in the Senior Years.
 4. School staffs in the Early, Middle, and Senior Years collaborate to build on previous learning in the second language and support transitions for students.
 5. The Superintendent of Schools will determine any process and schedule for review of decisions about the commencement of delivery of English Language Arts in elementary French Immersion Schools.

B. Administrative and Staff Services Support

1. Teachers in the French Immersion Program must have an excellent command of the French and English language as determined by their assignment.
2. Bilingual staff availability and program sustainability receive consideration in divisional staffing plans and decisions. Accordingly, when hiring subject specialists for all schools, if bilingual candidates satisfy the necessary specialist qualifications, the Division will endeavour to select bilingual candidates.

C. Student Services Support

1. Students requiring special education or clinical assistance (including gifted students and students with special needs) will receive support through bilingual staff assigned to the school, as determined by their availability.

D. Professional Development to support the French Immersion Program

1. Teachers will prioritize active participation in various professional development activities that support French Immersion education.
2. School and divisional administrators will encourage and support professional development that focuses on French Immersion education.
3. Schools will prioritize subscriptions to professional journals dealing specifically with the teaching of French as an additional language.

E. Registration and Promotion

1. Advertising for French Immersion Kindergarten shall occur in conjunction with the advertising for English Kindergarten.
2. Prior to registration, all parents of pre-school-aged children shall receive information about the French Immersion Program (at the information meeting), a schedule of information meetings, and procedures for registration.
3. Kindergarten information meetings shall be scheduled to permit parents to attend the English and French Immersion Program meetings for schools in their designated catchment areas.
4. Entry into the Early Immersion Program shall occur in Kindergarten or Grade 1. A student’s entry into the program at any level other than Kindergarten or

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Grade 1 may occur at the discretion of the divisional administration or designates, following assessment of the student's capacity with the French language.

5. Entry into the Middle Immersion Program shall occur in Grade 4.
6. Registration will occur at the French Immersion school that is designated for the catchment area. A student who wishes to attend a French Immersion school other than the one designated will be subject to School-of-Choice guidelines.
7. A student who experiences an extended absence from a French Immersion Program may re-enter the Program at the discretion of a school's administration, in consultation with the divisional administration and following assessment of the student's capacity in the French language.

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