FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Belief

The Division recognizes the bilingual and multi cultural nature of Canada. The Division recognizes the importance of providing a French language program designed to provide an opportunity for children to acquire and/or maintain proficiency in French.

Guidelines

1. The Division will offer, within the limits of its resources, a French Immersion Program as an optional program at the elementary and junior high school levels, ECS to Grade 9, to provide students an opportunity to learn the French language and develop an appreciation of French culture.

Procedures

2. The French Immersion Program:
   2.1 Shall develop proficiency in both French and English so that students may express themselves correctly and fluently in both languages.
   2.2 Will provide students with opportunities to acquire an appreciation of French culture.
   2.3 Will reflect the goals of Basic Education and promote the attainment of personal characteristics identified in the Program of Studies.
   2.4 Will be consistent with the content as prescribed in the Programme d'Etude for all courses taught in the French Language.
   2.5 Will be operated in accordance with policy and procedures for other programs of the Division.

3. The Division encourages the involvement, support and input of parents. The schools may involve parent groups and individuals when organizing activities and special projects to promote and enhance the attainment of linguistic and cultural objectives, and to inform the community about the program.

4. The Associate Superintendent: Instruction will be responsible for the operation and administration of the program at the Division level.

5. The Principal of the school will be responsible for the overall operation and administration of the program at the school level.

6. Entrance into the ECS or grade 1 French Immersion program is available to all students subject to Administrative Procedure 300 – Admission Age of Students. Entrance at other grade levels shall be based upon proficiency in oral and written French.
7. Time allocations for each subject taught in the program must reflect, at least, the minimum times required by Alberta Education.

8. French shall be used as the language of instruction as follows:
   8.1 ECS – Grade 6 receive at least 75%.
   8.2 Grades 7 – 9 receive at least 60%.

9. English Language Arts shall be taught as follows:
   9.1 Grades 7 – 9 receive at least 150 hours per year.

Reference: Section 9, 10, 11, 21, School Act
           Section 23, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
           Policy 1.5.2 – French as a Second Language and French Language Immersion
           Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12