SECOND LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Belief

The Division recognizes that the learning of a second language has a number of important benefits for students; it improves their comprehension and thinking skills, broadens their views of the world and builds greater respect and appreciation for cultural diversity.

Guidelines

1. French will be the recommended primary second language of instruction.

2. The Division also recognizes that each school community has distinct needs and preferences and that community input is to be considered for the provision of an alternative primary second language of instruction.

3. School staff, School Council and parents may provide advice to the Principal and Division as to their preferences in terms of second language of instruction.

4. The Division must receive a written proposal to adopt an alternative primary second language of instruction at least one school year prior to the proposed implementation.

5. The alternative primary second language of instruction must adhere to Alberta Education curriculum and programs of studies requirements (i.e. guidelines respecting hours of instruction available to students).

6. Alternative primary second language of instruction proposals must consider and be sensitive to the transition of students from feeder schools within the Division.

7. A language in addition to a school’s primary second language of choice is permissible if a need is identified.

Procedures

8. The Associate Superintendent Instruction is responsible for the implementation of this administrative procedure at the Division level.

9. Principals are responsible for the implementation of this administrative procedure at the school level.
10. Principals must advise the Associate Superintendent Instruction if changes to the recommended primary second language of instruction are being considered before parent surveys are undertaken. The Superintendent will inform the Board at the earliest opportunity. Principals must submit this notification at least 12 months prior to the proposed implementation date.

11. If a school is considering adopting an alternative primary second language of instruction, the Principal must submit a written proposal that will include and outline all of the following items:
   11.1 Rationale – an explanation indicating the underlying reasons for the Division to consider an alternative primary second language of instruction.
   11.2 Availability of Fluent Instructors – indicate the availability of teacher/instructor(s) who will be instructing this alternative primary second language and what training, documentation and/or certification they will be required to possess.
   11.3 Materials to be Used – a description of intended Alberta Education sanctioned resources and materials to be used shall be included.
   11.4 Compatibility with Other Schools – outline how the proposed alternative primary second language of instruction is compatible with other school sites that are linked to it.

12. Instructional time shall be scheduled in accordance with the Program of Studies and the Guide to Education.

13. In advising parents, School Council, and staff of proposed alternative primary second language of instruction changes, Principals must ensure that these groups:
   13.1 Have the opportunity to become fully informed regarding the proposed change – newsletters, special correspondence, public meetings, etc.
   13.2 Have the opportunity to provide feedback supporting or opposing the proposal.
   13.3 Know whom to contact for additional information about the proposal.

14. The School Council, staff, and 85% of the parents responding to a questionnaire or survey must support all alternative primary second language of instruction proposals; questionnaires or surveys are to be mailed to parents.

15. The effectiveness and appropriateness of an alternative primary second language of instruction will be reviewed by the school and its community during the first year. The recommendations to amend, modify, or continue instruction in an alternative primary second language of instruction will be presented to the Division for consideration.

16. To propose a language instruction program in addition to the primary second language, Principals shall present a proposal to the Associate Superintendent Instruction. The Associate Superintendent Instruction will determine whether or not the program may be implemented.
17. A proposed evaluation process must be presented at the time the pilot year is approved.

Reference: Section 11, 21, 60, 61, School Act