

AP 213 – SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

Background

The Division believes each child should have the opportunity to explore and learn other languages. When given the opportunity, it is the Division's belief that each child should experience, understand and appreciate language and culture through language learning.

The Division believes that language learning contributes to the formation of students in heart, mind, body and spirit. The Division believes that language learning develops awareness, sensitivity, appreciation and respect for one's culture, other cultures, as well as members of other cultures.

Language learning should recognize the Canadian historical and political context of Canada's founding languages and cultures. The Division supports community and heritage language groups in the delivery of heritage language instruction.

Procedures

1. Language learning opportunities may be provided through:
 - 1.1 Immersion/Bilingual Education Program
 - 1.1.1 Immersion/bilingual programs are provincially designated programs where the language of instruction is fifty percent (50%) or more of a school day/year.
 - 1.2 Intensive French
 - 1.2.1 Intensive French is a grade six program offered in all English language elementary schools where French is the language of instruction for sixty-three percent (63%) of the school year.
 - 1.3 Enhanced French
 - 1.3.1 Enhanced French is the grade seven to twelve follow-up program for students who complete grade six Intensive French where French is the language of instruction for fifteen to eighteen percent (15-18%) of the school year.
 - 1.4 Core Programs
 - 1.4.1 Core programs are provincially recognized programs in which instruction does not usually exceed the equivalent of one hundred and fifty (150) minutes per week.
 - 1.5 Languages – Correspondence Instruction:
 - 1.5.1 Language instruction in languages other than the two (2) official languages of Canada – English and French, may be provided.

2. Designation of schools for immersion/bilingual programs shall be as per the Education Act.
3. Program offerings are to meet the goals, objectives and requirements of provincially approved courses of study.
4. Factors which may affect approval of the introduction of a language option include:
 - 4.1 Community support;
 - 4.2 Sufficient enrolments to ensure a viable and sustainable program;
 - 4.3 Qualified second language teachers within the staff complement assigned to the school;
 - 4.4 Commitment to offer the program to students once they have entered the program.
5. Schools requesting the introduction of a language option must give notice of intent to the Superintendent of Instruction by November 1 of the year preceding the academic year in which the program is planned for introduction.
6. Out-of-school courses are recognized provided the instruction meets the requirements of the Department.
7. Access to facilities and equipment may be provided for out-of-school programs contingent upon receipt of funding approval from the Department.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 176, 177, 180, 181 Education Act