

Date of Issue	May 2019
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Subject	FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: CORE FRENCH
References	A Framework for French as a Second Language in Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2013 The Ontario Curriculum French as a Second Language – Core French Grades 4-8, Extended French Grades 4-8, French Immersion Grades 1-8, 2013 (Revised) The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 to 12: French as A Second Language – Core French, Extended French and French Immersion, 2014 (Revised) Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2016 Welcoming English Language Learners into French as a Second Language Programs Including Students with Special Education Needs in French as a Second Language Programs Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools Learning for All: A Guide to Effective Assessment and Instruction for All Students Kindergarten to Grade 12 2013 Policy 4105 – Curriculum Policy
Contact	Student Services – Curriculum

1. Purpose

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is committed to providing effective French as a Second Language (FSL) education to all students. In Canada, where French and English have equal status as official languages, there are significant advantages to being able to communicate in both. Core French instruction in the SCDSB will emphasize the development of oral language skills. This Administrative Procedures Memorandum (APM) is intended to set out parameters for the Core French program.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) provides a common basis to define language proficiency. It describes the skills and knowledge that language learners need to communicate effectively through understanding (listening and reading), speaking (production and interaction) and writing.
- 2.2 The Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELFL) is an examination set by the French Ministry of National Education that certifies a student's French language abilities.

3. Ministry of Education Program Requirements

- 3.1 Core French instruction is mandatory from Grades 4 to 8 for all students in elementary schools, unless they are enrolled in Extended French as a Second Language (EFSL) or French Immersion (FI).

- 3.2 Students entering Grade 4 must receive French instruction in each year from Grade 4 to Grade 8.
- 3.3 Students must accumulate 600 hours of instruction in FSL by the end of Grade 8.
- 3.4 One FSL credit is compulsory for high school graduation.

4. Simcoe County District School Board Program

- 4.1 Elementary Instruction and Assessment
 - 4.1.1 The board provides for 200 minutes of FSL instruction per week (120 hours per year) in Grades 4 to 8.
 - 4.1.2 Classes may be organized to provide:
 - 4.1.2.1 five 40-minute periods; or,
 - 4.1.2.2 four 50-minute periods in a five-day cycle.
 - 4.1.3 Oral language lays the foundation for the reading and writing skills. Instruction and assessment in French language programs shall emphasize oral language (i.e. listening and speaking) to a greater extent than reading and writing, especially during the early acquisition of the language.
 - 4.1.4 In addition to the Ontario Curriculum document for FSL, Core French teachers will use the CEFR as a tool to plan for instruction and assessment and to document student progress related to French language communication skills including their ability to; understand (listen and read), speak (produce and interact), and write.
- 4.2 Elementary Reporting
 - 4.2.1 Reporting expectations for Grades 4 to 8:
 - 4.2.1.1 for the Progress Report, elementary Core French teachers shall only report on the listening and speaking strands. A comment shall be included if a student is progressing with difficulty;
 - 4.2.1.2 for the Term One Report Card, comments and grades shall only reflect the listening and speaking strands; and,
 - 4.2.1.3 for the Term Two Report Card, comments and grades shall reflect all strands (i.e. listening, speaking, reading, writing).
- 4.3 Secondary Instruction and Assessment
 - 4.3.1 All students, with very few exceptions, have the ability to earn at least one compulsory credit in French.
 - 4.3.2 Schools should offer a variety of course types including; academic, applied, open and locally developed levels in Grades 9 and 10.
 - 4.3.3 In order to maximize FSL opportunities for students beyond Grades 9 and 10, schools should also consider offering a variety of course types including; college, open and university in Grades 11 and 12.
 - 4.3.4 The open-level course type can be offered in Grades 9 and/or 11. This course type is specifically designed to accommodate students who have had little previous exposure to French instruction or who have not accumulated the minimum 600 hours of elementary Core French Instruction. All secondary schools should offer at least one section of this course (pending enrolment).
 - 4.3.5 Students who are currently taking or have completed their Grade 12 FSL course will be encouraged to apply to challenge the DELF. Application instructions will be provided to all teachers of Grade 12 FSL courses.

5. Exemptions

5.1 Elementary

- 5.1.1 The full participation of all students in Grades 4 to 8 is expected. Decisions to grant an exemption will be made only in very rare circumstances and shall be done in consultation with the appropriate superintendent of education.
- 5.1.2 An exemption from FSL should only be considered when a student is working on an alternative program, as outlined in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) (i.e. the Ontario Curriculum).
- 5.1.3 Recognizing the importance of languages and cultures for Indigenous communities, the Ministry of Education provides a Grade 1 to 12 Native languages curriculum. Students enrolled in a Native languages program may be exempt from FSL.
- 5.1.4 English Language Learners (ELL) are expected to participate in the FSL program.
- 5.1.5 A written record of an exemption, signed by the legal custodian and principal, shall be kept in the Ontario Student Record (OSR).
- 5.1.6 The exemption shall be noted as NA on the elementary progress report card and the elementary provincial report card.
- 5.1.7 Parents/guardians must be notified in writing of the impact of the exemption including a description of the alternative program that will be offered.

5.2 Secondary

- 5.2.1 During the development of student transition plans from Grade 8 to 9, schools are expected to include FSL for all students.
- 5.2.2 Course substitutions should only be considered under exceptional circumstances and shall be done in consultation with the appropriate superintendent of education and superintendent responsible for Program.
- 5.2.3 Parents/guardians must be notified when a course is substituted for the compulsory FSL credit.

6. Students with Special Education Needs

6.1 Elementary

- 6.1.1 Students enrolled in special education classes are expected to participate in the FSL program. Supports and accommodations that students are receiving in other subjects, and that are part of the requirements in the student's IEP, will be provided during FSL instruction and assessment.

6.2 Secondary

- 6.2.1 Students with special education needs entering Grade 9 are expected to enrol in a FSL course. Supports and accommodations will be made according to the requirements of a student's IEP.

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