

**1. Rationale**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) acknowledges the value of additional language learning to support student achievement and learner pathways. The SCDSB is committed to increasing student confidence, proficiency and achievement in French as a Second Language (FSL) by offering a variety of learning opportunities to students in French. This policy is intended to set out parameters for the French Immersion (FI) program.

**2. Policy**

It is the policy of the SCDSB to offer an inclusive, effective and sustainable FI program. Entry into the FI program will commence in Grade 1.

**3. Definitions**

- 3.1 The elementary FI program is an optional additional language learning program which develops students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in the French language. In FI, French is taught as a subject itself and also serves as the language of instruction in other subjects. FI programs must provide a minimum of 3,800 hours of accumulated instruction in French by the end of Grade 8. In the SCDSB, students enter the program at Grade 1 and acquire up to 5,820 hours of French language instruction by the end of Grade 8. All elementary students in FI will receive a minimum of 50 percent of total French instructional time at every grade level of the program.
- 3.2 The secondary FI program requires students to accumulate 10 credits in French; four FSL credits, and six additional credits in which French is the language of instruction.
- 3.3 Available space is defined as one or more available student seats in a particular FI class or grade based on SCDSB staffing and class size provisions, and the terms of any relevant legislation and/or collective agreement.

**4. Selection of New FI School Sites, Attendance Areas and Program Relocations**

- 4.1 New FI school locations shall be recommended by the Director of Education for the approval of the Board by November 30 of the year prior to the establishment of a new FI school site.
- 4.2 When considering a new elementary FI school site, the SCDSB shall allocate a maximum of two Grade 1 classes to any one site. For secondary FI school sites, the SCDSB will consider the geographic location, as well as the number of students required to successfully start and sustain the FI program.
  - 4.2.1 Further considerations will include:
    - 4.2.1.1 the availability of qualified FSL teachers;
    - 4.2.1.2 adequate facility space and the availability of space for portables;

- 4.2.1.3 the site's capacity to accommodate increased vehicular traffic;
  - 4.2.1.4 the site's potential for program expansion year by year; and,
  - 4.2.1.5 the site's ability to maintain a dual track model (i.e. English and FI programs).
- 4.3 FI Attendance Areas:
- 4.3.1 Any changes to attendance areas must be made by March 31 as per Policy 2317 – School Attendance Areas.
  - 4.3.2 Students will attend the designated FI elementary or FI secondary school site based on their residential address.
  - 4.3.3 FI programs will adhere to schools closed to out-of-attendance-area students, as outlined in the annual SCDSB Capital Plan.
  - 4.3.4 If a FI school site is open to out-of-attendance-area students, families wishing to attend that site in lieu of their home FI school, are required to apply as per Administrative Procedures Memorandum (APM) A7000 – School Attendance Areas, using the Request to Attend an Out-of-Attendance-Area School and Conditions process.
- 4.4 FI program relocation and/or splitting of the program will be based on accommodation needs and/or pressures and is subject to Board approval.
- 5. Program Admissions**
- 5.1 All Year 2 Kindergarten students, both internal and external to the SCDSB, are eligible for admission to Grade 1 FI during the online application process.
  - 5.2 All admissions after Grade 1, will be made only when there is available space, and on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the strengths, needs, interests and aspirations of the individual student.
  - 5.3 Subject to the SCDSB staffing and class size provisions, admission to a Grade 1 FI program will be decided, and applications will be processed, in the order determined by a digitally randomized lottery system.
- 6. Program Delivery: Elementary**
- 6.1 By the end of Grade 8, FI students will acquire up to 5,820 hours of French language instruction. The percentage of French language instruction differs by grade as follows:
    - 6.1.1 Grades 1 and 2 – up to 100 percent with a minimum of 83 percent;
    - 6.1.2 Grades 3 and 4 – up to 83 percent. Students receive a minimum of 50 minutes per day of instruction in English;
    - 6.1.3 Grades 5 and 6 – up to 67 percent. Students receive a minimum of 100 minutes per day of instruction in English; and,
    - 6.1.4 Grades 7 and 8 – 50 percent. Students receive 150 minutes per day of instruction in English.
  - 6.2 Special education support, if needed, will be provided in English, unless support in French is available at the school.

Page 3

**7. Program Delivery: Secondary**

- 7.1 For each course in the FI program, the percentage of French language instruction shall be 100 percent.
- 7.2 Secondary school FI sites will offer at least 10 required FI courses as follows:
  - 7.2.1 Grades 9 and 10 – one FSL course in each grade and a minimum of five additional courses by the end of Grade 10; and,
  - 7.2.2 Grades 11 and 12 – one FSL course in each grade and a minimum of one additional course by the end of Grade 12.
- 7.3 Where possible, the courses offered in addition to the required FSL courses will be chosen from compulsory credit courses.
- 7.4 Special education support, if needed, will be provided in English, unless support in French is available at the school.

**8. Transportation**

Transportation is available to students enrolled in FI programs in accordance with Policy 2410 – Transportation of Students, and APM A1225 – Transportation of Students – Courtesy Riders on Commuter and Program Transportation.

**9. Administrative Procedures**

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

**ADOPTED JUNE 19, 2013  
REVISED DECEMBER 18, 2013  
REVISED JUNE 17, 2015  
REVISED APRIL 26, 2017  
REVISED SEPTEMBER 25, 2019  
REVISED FEBRUARY 24, 2021**