

1. **Why was the decision made to phase out the Extended French program?**

The strongest factor that influenced the decision to phase out the Extended French program is staffing. There are a limited number of qualified French as a Second Language teachers within the province. Another factor is the available space within our facilities.

2. **I moved to the area after the online application closed. Can I still apply for French Immersion (FI)?**

Yes you can still apply for Grade 1 admission until October 31. A paper copy of the application form is available at your designated FI site. If the site is full, your child will be placed on the waitlist. Students wishing to join the FI program in Grades 2-5 will need to complete a proficiency test. Further details are available by calling your school principal.

3. **How will I know if my child will be successful in second language learning?**

As with all programs, positive learning experiences occur when students are encouraged at school and at home to enjoy second language learning. Children are successful learners when they are supported and motivated.

4. **What language do French Immersion students write the EQAO assessments in?**

In the SCDSB Grade 3 students write the mathematics assessment in French and do not write the Language portion of the assessment because 100% of the SCDSB's mathematics instruction is in French. By Grade 6, all FI students have had enough English language instruction to allow them to complete the EQAO reading, writing and mathematics assessments in English.

5. **Is there a cost to parents for student participation in FI?**

There is no additional cost associated with the FI program.

6. **Does a parent need to speak French for their child to be successful?**

No, parents do not need to be able to speak French for their children to be enrolled in the FI programs. As with all programs, it is important that a positive relationship between home and school be maintained. Continue to read to and with your child in English at home and focus on concepts rather than language if your child requires assistance with homework.

7. **My child has special learning needs. Should I consider FI?**

Children of all abilities can be successful in FI. Special education support is delivered in English and may be delivered in French where qualified staff are available.

8. What supports are available for my child?

Students who experience difficulty have the support of the classroom teacher and, where appropriate, the special education resource teacher (SERT). While resource support may be delivered in English or French, recommended learning strategies are implemented by the classroom teacher in French.

9. Are English language skills affected by FI?

Although some children may experience difficulties transitioning to a second language, studies have shown that second language learning increases critical thinking skills and creativity in students. Second language learning enhances a child's first language as well.

10. Will my child follow the same curriculum that they would follow in English?

Yes. All program and course materials are based on the Ontario Curriculum policy documents.

11. What happens at the secondary level?

Thirty (30) secondary school credits are required for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Currently, one secondary credit in French is required for an OSSD. If your child continues in the FI or Extended French program at the secondary level, a total of 10 French credits are required for your child to receive a French Immersion Certificate and 7 credits are required to earn an Extended French Certificate.

12. What if I come from another board or what if my child is bilingual? Can I put my child in FI or EFSL?

This is determined on a case-by-case basis. If there is space in the current FI or EFSL program, your child will need to complete a French oral and written assessment before being admitted to the program. Please contact your school's principal or email fsl@scdsb.on.ca.

13. Can I apply for my child to attend a program at a different location?

Your child will need to attend the designated French Immersion or Extended French location based on the current feeder school lists. We know some families may have other siblings already attending programs who will be at a different school. All schools offering FI are currently closed to Out-Of-Attendance Area requests, unless otherwise noted in the Capital Plan, and as approved by Board.

14. Will my child stay at the same school for the duration of the program?

Not necessarily. Program locations may change during your child's time in the program and your child may need to move schools. Program locations may change and programs may be split. Sometimes these changes happen because of limited space at schools. If a move is needed, transition planning will take place. The quality of your child's educational experience will not be impacted. Parents and schools can work together to help make any change a positive experience for students.

15. Is transportation provided for students in FI and EFSL?

- Transportation is available for students to attend their designated FI and EFSL schools.
- Centralized community bus stops will be established for student pick-up and drop-off.
- The locations of the centralized community bus stops will be communicated to parents once they are determined.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to transport his/her child to and from the community bus stop for both pick-up and drop-off.
- Maximum bus travel times currently established under board policy will not apply to bus routes transporting children to FI and EFSL programs. It is possible that your child's bus ride may exceed 60 minutes one way.
- Maximum walking distances to bus stops currently established under board policy will not apply to program buses transporting children to FI and EFSL programs. It is possible that your child's walking distance to his/her community bus stop may exceed 0.8 km.
- Parents must write a letter to request that younger siblings (Grade 4 or younger) can disembark from the bus with older siblings at community collection points.

16. What type of French will be taught in the classroom?

Standard French vocabulary and structures are taught in all French programs. A variety of accents exist in all languages. Students may be exposed to teachers from various parts of the world and therefore the accent may vary slightly.

17. Will communication for the school (e.g. report cards) be in English or in French?

All communication from the school will be in English.

18. How can I have my questions answered?

Please contact your child's principal or email your questions to fsl@scdsb.on.ca.