



## **Annual Enrolment in Early French Immersion/Middle French Immersion Programs 2021-2022 and Core French Program 2020-2021**

**To:** Program and School Services Committee

**Date:** 9 June, 2021

**Report No.:** 06-21-4099

### **Strategic Directions**

- Transform Student Learning
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the report regarding Annual Enrolment in Early/Middle Immersion French Programs 2021-22 and Core French Program 2020-21 be received for information.

### **Context**

Aligned with the Vision for Learning, the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the French-as-a Second Language Recommendations, equity of access to Intensive French programs is a key priority.

The Early French Immersion program has been in Toronto schools since the early 1970's. It began in a handful of schools and has grown over the years. At amalgamation, there were 41 Early French Immersion entry sites in the TDSB. In 2009, PR597 came into effect which allows for the accommodation of all families who apply by a deadline in an Early French Immersion or Junior Extended French program and outlined a process for program growth. Since 2009, 30 new sites have opened to accommodate growing demand in the program. Similarly, the Junior Extended French program began in 2004 in 7 schools and has since grown to 39 sites. In September 2021, due to recommendations from the French Review, the Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 entry), will begin in 40 sites, as the Junior Extended French program phases out. Currently, there is an Early French Immersion and Middle French Immersion program to serve every residential address in the Toronto District School Board. Core French is mandatory in Ontario from

Grades 4 to 8 for all students in English-language elementary schools. Policy and program requirements for elementary school Core French programs dictate that students entering Grade 4 must receive French instruction in every year from Grade 4 to Grade 8 and must have accumulated a minimum of 600 hours of French instruction by the end of Grade 8. There is one mandatory Core French credit required in Gr. 9.

**ENROLMENT:** The total number of JK students in 2020 was 14,842 of which 3,089\* applied to SK French Immersion and 2,619 accepted (i.e., reserved) placements for September 2021. The number of students whose placement was accepted for 2021 was 18% of those in JK in 2020. This reflects a 23% decrease in overall applications across the system. This decrease was reflected in all four Learning Centres (i.e., LC1 21%; LC2 24%; LC3 33%; LC4 20%). For September 2021, there are 70 SK French Immersion sites, all of which are Full Day Kindergarten (FDK). \*This total reflects applicants up to February 28, 2021.

The total number of Grade 3 students in 2020 was 14,873 of which 1,064\* applied to Grade 4 Middle French Immersion and 834 accepted (i.e., reserved) placements for September 2021. The number of students whose placement was accepted for 2021 was 6% of those in Grade 3 in 2020. For September 2021, there are 40 Middle French Immersion sites. \*This total reflects applicants up to February 28, 2021.

All on-time applicants (Early French Immersion SK entry and Grade 4 Middle French Immersion) are offered a placement in a program. There are no system wait-lists. While every effort is made to place students in the school identified as their area Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion school, this is not always possible. In cases where the number of applications in a given area is greater than the number of allotted program spaces in the school, redirection is the process by which applicants are accommodated. Guiding principles for redirection include redirecting students as a group based on English home school and redirecting to the closest Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion site with available program space. When a fraction appears in the “Redirection” column of Appendix A, the denominator indicates the number of students who were redirected to a school other than the French program school currently associated to their designated English school as per PR597 – Early French Immersion/Middle French Immersion. The numerator indicates the number of accepted placements through redirection.

While the tables in appendices for each of the five programs show numbers at the entry point, the last table in this report shows the total enrolment in these programs from SK to Grade 12. Please note that, in the attached charts, “*Accepted*” refers to the number of students whose parents/guardians have reserved a placement in the program.

*Both Early French Immersion and Middle French Immersion* are French-as-a-Second Language (FSL) programs in which French is not only taught as a subject, but also serves as the language of instruction in other subjects.

In a *French Immersion program*, French must be the language of instruction for a minimum of 50 percent of the total instructional time at every grade level of the program.

## **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

This current annual report will be shared at Program and School Services Committee on June 9, with the French as a Second Language Community Advisory Committee (FSLCAC) June 8 and Board on June 30, 2021.

Over the next several years, the TDSB will phase in changes and enhancements to French-as-a-Second Language Programs that were approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2019 which are all aimed at improving equity of access for students.

## **Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)**

PR597: French Immersion/Extended French

P080: French-as-a-Second Language

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Enrolment Data in Early French Immersion/Middle French Immersion Programs 2021-2022 & Core French Programs 2020-2021

## **From**

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