

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
School District #33 (Chilliwack)**

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**628.1  
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION  
French Immersion**

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The District French Immersion Programs are intended to be inclusive programs, including students with a variety of aptitudes, cultures and backgrounds. Students will be admitted to the District Early French Immersion program at the Kindergarten and Grade One levels, if space is available. Students will be admitted to the District Late French Immersion program at the Grade Six level, if space is available. In cases where the number of applicants exceeds the number of spaces available, a waitlist will be created. See Selection Processes below.

**EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION**

**REGISTRATION**

1. The District will endeavor to inform parents about the Early French Immersion program as an alternative education program of choice.
2. The District will hold an information meeting for interested parents/guardians prior to opening the on-line application.
3. Information will be provided to parents regarding the application process.
4. A parent information meeting and deadlines for submitting applications for the District Early French Immersion program shall be scheduled so as to allow sufficient time for decision-making and discussion prior to application.
5. All applicants will be informed in writing as to whether or not they have been accepted in to the District Early French Immersion Program.
6. Parents/guardians will have one week after notification to accept or decline their placement.

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Cross Refs: Student Behaviour Policy, Weapons Policy, Student Discipline and Suspension Policy, Ministry of Education - Safe, Caring & Orderly School

Adopted: November 19, 2013  
Reviewed: January 20, 2015  
Revised: December 19, 2016

## **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

1. Parents of Kindergarten and Grade One age children must apply on-line to the Early French Immersion program. Acceptance into the District Early French Immersion program will follow, provided that space exists.
2. Students enter in Kindergarten or Grade One, and they may enter in Grade One up to September 30 of that student's Grade One year, if space is available and placement is appropriate in accordance to an existing wait list.
3. Entry to the program at other than the Kindergarten or Grade One level up to September 30, will be considered only if there is adequate space, if the student is adequately proficient in French and with permission of the principal.
  - a. Parents/guardians can apply directly at District Early French Immersion school,
  - b. French language competency in this case will be determined by the school principal in consultation with district program personnel and appropriate teachers,
  - c. Adequate proficiency is defined in Ministry Policy #96-12 as follows:  
"...sufficient language skill to permit the student to be able to comprehend instruction in the subjects taught in French, assuming a period of 4 to 8 weeks of adjustment to the program."

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

1. Any parent/guardian may make an on-line application for their child to be enrolled in the District Early French Immersion Program, in early January, the dates to be determined by district administration and advertised to parents.
2. All Kindergarten and Grade One students residing in the City of Chilliwack will be given priority over non-residents.
3. Where applications exceed spaces, placement is made through a random draw from all applicants.
  - a. A lottery system for selection will be used at the Kindergarten and Grade One level,

- b. The draw will be supervised at the School District office by the Director of Instruction, the school principal and one parent representative (e.g. PAC President or designate),
  - c. A waiting list will be maintained of those who are not selected. Within one week of the draw, district personnel will contact all families to advise them of their placement in a Kindergarten or Grade One class or their position on the waitlist,
  - d. Parents/guardians will have one week to accept or decline and then district personnel will make additional selections based on the waitlist, if spaces are made available.
4. Registration will be given in the following priority:
- a. Students who reside within the City of Chilliwack,
    - i. Siblings of students already in the District Early French Immersion Program will be given priority if they are also applying for Early French Immersion, and if the sibling is currently attending École Cheam Elementary, up to Grade Five at time of application,
    - ii. Students who were already enrolled in a French Immersion Program elsewhere, or have demonstrated adequate proficiency in French.
  - b. Out-of-district students.
    - i. Siblings of students already in the District Early French Immersion Program will be given priority if they are also applying for Early French Immersion (and if the sibling is currently attending École Cheam Elementary, up to Grade Five at time of application),
    - ii. Out-of-district students who were already enrolled in a French Immersion Program elsewhere, or have demonstrated adequate proficiency in French.
  - c. Students who were not granted entry in Kindergarten will maintain their place on the waitlist if they decide to apply again in the normal process for Grade One Early French Immersion the following year.
5. Transfers out of the program will be made through a consultation process including the Principal, parents and teachers in agreement that the transfer is in the best interests of the student.

## **LATE FRENCH IMMERSION**

### **REGISTRATION**

1. The District will endeavor to inform parents about the Late French Immersion program of choice.
2. The District will hold information meetings for interested parents/guardians prior to opening the on-line application.
3. Information will be provided to parents regarding the application process.
4. Parent information meetings and deadlines for submitting applications for the District Late French Immersion program shall be scheduled to allow sufficient time for decision-making and discussion prior to application.
5. All applicants will be informed in writing as to whether or not they have been accepted in to the District Late French Immersion Program.
6. Parents/guardians will have one week after notification to accept or decline their placement.
7. District personnel will notify all regular catchment area schools as to the status of Late French Immersion applicants following the processing of applications, and those students will be pre-transitioned to the Late French Immersion home school.

## **STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

1. Parents of Grade Five age children (entering Grade Six in September) must apply on-line to the District Late French Immersion program. Registration in the District Late French Immersion program will follow, provided that space exists.
2. Students enter in Grade Six, and they may enter in Grade Six up to September 30 of that student's Grade Six year, if space is available and placement is appropriate in accordance to an existing wait list.
3. Entry to the program at other than the Grade Six level up to September 30 will be considered only if there is adequate space, if the student is adequately proficient in French, and with permission of the principal.
  - a. Parents/guardians can apply directly at the District Late French Immersion schools,
  - b. French language competency in this case will be determined by the school principal in consultation with district program personnel and appropriate teachers,

- c. Adequate proficiency is defined in Ministry Policy #96-12 as follows:  
“...sufficient language skill to permit the student to be able to comprehend instruction in the subjects taught in French, assuming a period of 4 to 8 weeks of adjustment to the program.”

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

1. Any parent/guardian may make an on-line application for their child to be enrolled in the District Late French Immersion Program, in late January, the dates to be determined by district administration and advertised to parents.
2. All students entering Grade Six residing within the City of Chilliwack will be given priority over non-residents.
3. Where applications exceed places, placement is made through a random draw from all applicants.
  - a. A lottery system for selection will be used at the Grade Six level,
  - b. The placement will be supervised at the School District office by the Director of Instruction, the school principal and one parent representative (e.g. PAC President or designate),
  - c. A waiting list will be maintained of those who are not selected,
  - d. Within one week of the on-line application period closing, district personnel will contact all families to advise them of their placement in a Grade Six class or their position on the waitlist,
  - e. Parents/guardians will have one week to accept or decline and then district personnel will make additional selections based on the waitlist, if spaces are made available. Please note: At this time, an appointment will also be arranged for a short interview between the teacher, student and parents. This part of the process is to help provide further information and to answer questions to help ensure families are confident with their decision.
4. Registration will be given in the following priority:
  - a. Students who reside within the City of Chilliwack,
    - i. Students who reside on the North Side of Chilliwack will be given priority at Strathcona Elementary and students on the South Side will be given priority at Sardis Elementary,
    - ii. Siblings of students already in the District Late French Immersion Program will be given priority if they are also

- applying for Late French Immersion, and if the sibling is currently attending the same District Late French Immersion Elementary School, or the feeder Middle School, up to Grade Seven at time of application,
- iii. Students who were already enrolled in a French Immersion Program elsewhere, or have demonstrated adequate proficiency in French.
- b. Out-of-district students,
- i. Siblings of students already in the Late French Immersion Program will be given priority if they are also applying for Late French Immersion, and if the sibling is currently attending the same District Late French Immersion Elementary School, or the feeder Middle School, up to Grade Seven at time of application.
5. Transfers out of the program will be made through a consultation process including the Principal, parents and teachers in agreement that the transfer is in the best interests of the student.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation to and from District French Immersion schools is the responsibility of the parent.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Support learning services will be available to District French Immersion students from Kindergarten through grade 7.