

French Immersion Program Review



Board Meeting
September 27, 2011





Mandate

To ensure viability of French Immersion programs as well as provide recommendations regarding secondary French Immersion program offerings.



Background

At the annual Accommodation Meeting held on January 24, 2011, Rainbow District School Board Trustees approved a review of the Board's French Immersion Program.

Background (continued)

A French Immersion Program Review Committee, comprised of teachers and administrators in French Immersion, was established to lead the process. The Committee met four times in the spring of 2011.

Staff from various French Immersion and dual track schools were included on the committee.

Process

The French Immersion Program Review Committee considered the following information to create viable options to strengthen French Immersion programs in Rainbow schools:

- current research regarding French Immersion instruction
- student enrolment data trends, 2006-2010
- geography
- student survey data, March 2011
- secondary course offerings



Enrolment data trends

The enrolment included on the following pages is taken from the October 31 enrolment each year.

Trends:

- strong junior kindergarten enrolment
- French Immersion schools maintain their enrolment over time
- some students transfer into the English program
- triple and quadruple grades in our elementary schools (language of instruction)
- a minimum of 25 students in grade 9 in our secondary schools



Elementary Enrolment

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
ENGLISH ENROLMENT	7456	75	7180	75	7033	75	6723	74	6445	73
FI ENROLMENT	2537	25	2404	25	2338	25	2352	26	2368	27
TOTAL	9993		9584		9371		9075		8813	

Elementary French Immersion Enrolment

JK & SK French Immersion Enrolment:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
JK	248	250	281	286	332
SK	299	247	266	283	280

ELEMENTARY overall French Immersion student retention:

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	TOTAL JK-8
2006	278	248	251	258	238	244	240	233	2537
2007	284	223	231	230	251	232	219	237	2404
2008	232	248	209	205	224	233	220	220	2338
2009	263	213	236	195	202	219	236	219	2352
2010	272	242	197	232	187	194	204	228	2368

French Immersion Enrolment Alexander Public School

JK & SK French Immersion Enrolment:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
JK	35	24	32	40	42
SK	38	33	32	39	37

Overall French Immersion Program student retention:

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total JK-8
2006	29	29	22	30	19	22	18	13	255
2007	31	24	28	23	29	19	19	17	247
2008	31	31	21	24	21	26	17	21	256
2009	35	26	27	21	24	21	27	16	276
2010	41	31	23	27	16	18	21	25	281

Elementary Recommendations

The following elementary schools will continue to offer French Immersion:

- Alexander Public School
- Carl A. Nesbitt Public School
- Chelmsford Public School/Chelmsford Valley District Composite School (Grade 7 and 8)
- Ernie Checkeris Public School
- Lively District Secondary School (Grade 7 and 8)
- Northeastern Elementary School
- R.L. Beattie Public School
- Valley View Public School
- Walden Public School
- Westmount Avenue Public School



Elementary Recommendations (continued)

The following elementary school will no longer offer French Immersion effective September 2013:

Lansdowne Public School

Lansdowne French Immersion

JK & SK French Immersion Enrolment:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Sept. 2011
JK	13	22	21	11	17	21
SK	13	17	17	18	11	19

Overall French Immersion student retention:

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total JK-8
2006	11	11	10	14	16	4	19	7	118
2007	10	6	10	7	13	16	5	18	124
2008	12	5	7	10	6	10	11	4	103
2009	15	11	5	4	6	3	10	10	93
2010	14	9	7	4	5	6	2	10	85
Sept. 2011	11	11	6	9	5	6	6	4	98



Rationale

- small cohort enrolment
- loss of students each year
- avoid triple grades (language of instruction)
- other available French Immersion programs in close proximity



Elementary Recommendations (continued)

Students currently enrolled in the Lansdowne Public School French Immersion program will attend one of the following schools based on boundaries effective September 2013:

Ernie Checkeris Public School

Westmount Public School

Carl A. Nesbitt Public School

Alexander Public School



Secondary Enrolment

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
ENGLISH ENROLMENT	5659	89	5531	88	5343	88	5278	88	4928	88
FI ENROLMENT	727	11	738	12	705	12	700	12	691	12
TOTAL	6387		6269		6048		5978		5619	



Secondary French Immersion

SECONDARY Overall **French Immersion** student retention:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	TOTAL
2006	202	165	177	183	727
2007	201	183	155	199	738
2008	174	194	175	162	705
2009	197	150	184	169	700
2010	177	187	146	181	691



French Immersion Enrolment Confederation Secondary School

Overall FRENCH IMMERSION student retention:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	TOTAL
2006	26	22	21	10	79
2007	25	21	19	23	88
2008	28	26	26	25	105
2009	36	20	25	25	106
2010	27	32	18	16	93



Student Survey Data, Grade 7 to 10

Students would be encouraged to stay in French Immersion if there were more:

- flexibility in courses offered (53%)
- awareness in careers in French (60%)
- involvement in French community events (39%)
- co-op courses in French (39%)
- volunteer hours in a French setting (32%)
- classroom and library resources (34%)



Student Survey Data, Grade 7 to 10

- enrolled in French Immersion for job opportunities (75%)
- liked the opportunity to speak French (64%)
- excursions in French (60%)
- more French spoken
- too much English spoken



Secondary Recommendations

The following secondary schools will continue to offer French Immersion:

Chelmsford Valley District Composite School*

Confederation Secondary School

Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School

Lockerby Composite School

Lasalle Secondary School

Sudbury Secondary School*

Secondary Recommendations (continued)

Sudbury Secondary School maintain their French Immersion program for both 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 based on the following criteria:

- Maintain their current Year 1 (Grade 9) enrolment
- Ensure the Year 1 and Year 2 (Grade 10) enrolment on October 31, 2012 is 45 students

Sudbury Secondary School

French Immersion numbers

Overall FRENCH IMMERSION student retention:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	TOTAL
2006	13	7	13	17	50
2007	13	11	7	7	38
2008	10	11	7	6	34
2009	11	12	8	9	40
2010	2	10	10	10	32
Sept. 2011	20	2	8	7	37



Rationale (if numbers are maintained)

- provide the school with an opportunity to grow the program in the revitalized facility
- significantly increase in Year 1, grade 9, enrolment



Rationale (if numbers are not maintained)

- small cohort size
- loss of students from year to year
- limited variety of course offerings
- other available French Immersion programs in close proximity



Secondary Recommendations (continued)

Students currently in the French Immersion program at Sudbury Secondary School will continue until graduation.

No new students will be enrolled in the French Immersion program effective September 2013.



Recommendation

The French Immersion programs in the Valley North schools will be reviewed through an Accommodation Review Committee process for Chelmsford Public School, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, Larchwood Public School and Levack Public School.

Secondary Course Offerings

Grade 9: Français, Géographie and
Éducation Physique et Santé

Grade 10: Français, Histoire, Éducation à la
Citoyenneté et Exploration de Carrière

Grade 11: Français

Grade 12: Français



Secondary Course Offerings

Secondary schools are encouraged to offer as many different courses to students in the French Immersion Program.

Only math and science are mandated to be taught in English.



Timelines

Board Meetings:

September 2011

October 2011

November 2011



October Board Meeting Tuesday, October 25, 2011

The Board will hear public presentations in response to the recommendations from the Executive Council regarding the French Immersion Program Review.



November Board Meeting Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Executive Council will present its final recommendations to the Board for approval.

Recommendations to be implemented no earlier than September 2013.



Contact email

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