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## FRENCH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

### Background

Students are to be given the opportunity to learn both official languages as part of their instructional program.

### Procedures

1. Principals will provide student opportunities for French language learning through the provision of French as a Second Language programs beginning in grade four.
  - 1.1 All students in grades 4 – 6 shall be given the opportunity to take French as a Second Language.
  - 1.2 French as a Second Language shall be offered for a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) minutes per week in grades 4 – 6. Daily French instruction will be the goal.
  - 1.3 French shall be offered as a complementary course in grades 7 – 9.
  - 1.4 French shall be offered for a minimum of seventy-five (75) hours per year in grades 7 - 9.
  - 1.5 French courses shall be offered in grades 10 – 12 and the time provisions shall be consistent with Alberta Education requirements.
  - 1.6 The French as a Second Language program is to develop an appreciation of the French culture as well as developing knowledge and awareness of the language.
  - 1.7 The teaching of French shall reflect the “natural learning” philosophy as stated in the teacher resource guide.
  - 1.8 Community resources may be used to enhance the provision of French as a Second Language programs.
2. Opportunities for French language learning may be provided through French Immersion programs in grades K – 12 when numbers warrant and when all other factors have been considered.
  - 2.1 Principals of schools offering French Immersion programs shall ensure that the instructional time requirements outlined in the Guide to Education are met.
  - 2.2 Principals of schools offering French Immersion programs shall ensure that the total instructional time in French meets the requirements to have students classified as “full-time equivalent French Immersion students” for grant purposes.
  - 2.3 Community resources may be used to enhance the provision of French Immersion programs.
  - 2.4 Principals of French Immersion schools shall meet at least once each school year to discuss issues directly relevant to them.
3. When French language programs within the Division do not meet the needs and the rights of Francophone students under section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Division will honour the individual’s rights.

- 3.1 When a French Immersion program does not meet the needs of Francophone students as defined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the parents may request a different placement for their student.
- 3.2 When a request is made for a different placement of a Francophone student, the Superintendent will examine the rights of the student under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and will decide on the placement of the student by following the Charter guidelines.

Reference: Section 6, 10, 16.2, 18, 20, 60, 61, 31, 113 School Act  
Section 23 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom  
Funding Manual for School Authorities  
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12

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