

What we heard

EIPS needs to develop a clear vision for the French Immersion program






VISION

Elk Island Public Schools' French Immersion program offers robust, high-quality, linguistically and culturally rich learning environments where students, K-12, are engaged in becoming highly proficient in Canada's two official languages. Students who graduate from the program are well-prepared to be active and engaged citizens in today's bilingual and multicultural Canada.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- To best achieve the program goals, French Immersion students are encouraged to remain in the program until the end of Grade 12.
- Maximizing the amount of French language spoken in the learning environment is essential.
- Robust enrolment—more than one class per grade—enhances teaching quality and student learning.
- Embedded cultural activities and opportunities are essential to the program's effectiveness.
- Reducing the number of transitions to a new school, offering depth and breadth of programming, multiple choices in subject offerings and extracurricular activities is important to retention.
- Families play a key role in promoting immersion programs and supporting their child in achieving the program goals.
- The Division advocates for the program, its accessibility and sustainability.
- The Division develops ongoing strategies to recruit and hire the best possible staff.

MUST-HAVE CRITERIA FOR THE POTENTIAL SOLUTION

-  **Address growth, balanced enrolment and retention concerns.** The Division anticipates significant growth coming from Ardrossan East, the elementary French Immersion program is undersubscribed at Heritage Hills Elementary and fewer students are deciding to stay in the program at the junior high and senior high levels.
-  **Support the vision and guiding principles.** Based on feedback from Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the French Immersion engagement, EIPS has developed a vision and guiding principles for the program.
-  **Be financially sustainable.** EIPS has a fiduciary responsibility to operate all programming at sustainable levels.
-  **Align with what we have heard.** A desire for robust French Immersion programming, such as course options, French cultural experiences, extracurricular activities, high-quality, French-speaking teachers; school sites close to where students live; the least amount of school transitions as possible; more academic supports for students and families in French Immersion; a clear EIPS vision for the program; and a potential solution for the next engagement.
-  **Enable growth of the program well into the future.** A plan that enables program growth ensures EIPS can provide robust, linguistically and culturally rich learning environments for students, K-12, long term.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Background, Questions & Answers, Facts and Figures,
What We Heard Reports, plus more



EIPS ”
Let's Talk About

What we heard

The French Immersion program needs robust programming, school sites close to where students live, the least amount of school transitions, and more supports for students and their families



PART A: ELEMENTARY

A.1 Balance elementary French Immersion at Heritage Hills Elementary

POTENTIAL SOLUTION:

Expand Heritage Hills Elementary's attendance boundary.

Balance Enrolment (K-6)

Address Enrolment Pressures

Enhance Retention

- Designate French Immersion students living in Cambrian Crossing to Heritage Hills Elementary, K-6, effective 2023-24.
- Expand Heritage Hills Elementary's French Immersion attendance boundary so it aligns with the regular program—phased in starting with kindergarten children in the 2024-25 school year.

A.2 Address anticipated enrolment pressures at Ardrossan Elementary

POTENTIAL SOLUTION:

Accommodate students at Ardrossan Elementary through the Division's Modular Classroom Plan.

Balance Enrolment (K-6)

Address Enrolment Pressures

Enhance Retention

- Ardrossan Elementary continues to offer a dual-track regular and French Immersion program.
- Ardrossan Elementary's attendance boundaries remain unchanged—except students living in Cambrian Crossing are redirected to Heritage Hills Elementary for French Immersion.

A.3 Balance elementary French Immersion at the Sherwood Park replacement school

POTENTIAL SOLUTION:

Students designated to École Campbelltown move to the new replacement school in Sherwood Park, expected in 2025-26.

Balance Enrolment (K-6)

Address Enrolment Pressures

Enhance Retention

- The replacement school's elementary French Immersion program has room to grow.
- The replacement school's elementary French Immersion program is contained within the new school and operates as a stand-alone school within a larger building.

HOW IT ADDRESSES THE CRITERIA

- Supports the anticipated growth in elementary French Immersion.
- Allows more elementary students close proximity to the program.
- Two classes per grade enables robust programming and helps facilitate more academic supports.
- Sustainable into the future and reduces further school transitions.

What we heard

“The French Immersion program needs robust programming, school sites close to where students live, the least amount of school transitions, and more supports for students and their families”



PART B: SECONDARY

B. Address French Immersion retention and anticipated enrolment pressures at Ardrossan Junior Senior High

POTENTIAL SOLUTION:

**Balance Enrolment (K-6)
Address Enrolment Pressures
Enhance Retention**

Relocate all EIPS' secondary French Immersion program, grades 7-12, to Bev Facey Community High—effective at the same time the new K-9 replacement school in Sherwood Park opens, expected in the 2025-26 school year.

- Relocate Ardrossan Junior Senior High's French Immersion program to Bev Facey Community High.
- Relocate Sherwood Heights Junior High's French Immersion program to Bev Facey Community High.
- Make Bev Facey Community High the designated secondary school, grades 7-12, for Ardrossan Elementary, École Campbelltown, École Parc Élémentaire and Heritage Hills Elementary's French Immersion.

HOW IT ADDRESSES THE CRITERIA

- Addresses students going to school closest to where the majority resides.
- Enables robust programming, especially concerning program offerings and extracurricular.
- Minimizes transitions and increases retention.
- Enhances a culture of French in the school by locating the Bev Facey French Immersion program in a section of the school building.
- Staff teaching junior high and senior high strengthen continuity in teaching and learning.
- Sustainable into the future.

