

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

2024-25

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: [How do I help my child when I don't speak the language?](#)

A: Typically, in French Immersion, teachers only send home schoolwork that needs to be finished or practiced. Students will have had class time to work on the assignment or task already, and they just need to finish or practice it more. However, if you notice your child is having trouble with the work sent home, that's good information for the teacher to know. Contact your child's teacher to inform them of the struggles so they can work with your child to increase their capacity with the assignment or task. It's not expected that parents or caregivers are able to speak French.

Q: [How can I prepare my child for French Immersion kindergarten?](#)

Prepare children the same as you would if they were entering any other school program.

Provide opportunities for your child to practice:

- dressing independently and tying shoes;
- handling a snack, opening and closing containers;
- picking up a pencil, colouring and using scissors;
- taking turns asking and answering questions;
- helping your child feel comfortable spending time away from you;
- helping your child become familiar with the school, the playground and the route to and from school; and
- reassuring your child that many of the other children in class will have no prior knowledge of French, and the teacher doesn't expect any prior knowledge of French.

You may also consider exposing your child to a little French beforehand so they can enjoy some familiarity with the sound of the language. An online search can help you find free children's videos or recordings in French. This is not intended for your child to learn French, but simply provide them with some exposure to what the language sounds like. Try viewing or listening to:

- the alphabet sung in French;
- counting in French;
- a French children's cartoon; and
- some children's songs in French.

Q: [In what grade can students start the French Immersion program?](#)

A: Students generally join the French Immersion program in kindergarten or Grade 1 to ensure they are provided with the foundational skills needed to continue the program in later grades.

Q: [What is the difference between single-track and dual-track French Immersion schools?](#)

A: A single-track French Immersion school offers only the French Immersion program in all grades offered at the school. A dual-track French Immersion school offers both the French Immersion and the regular English program. Currently, within Elk Island Public Schools, École Campbelltown and École Parc Élémentaire offer single-track French Immersion programming. All other schools offer dual-track—French and English—programming.

Q: Which French Immersion schools have open and closed boundaries?

The schools with open and closed boundaries can change from year to year. The [list of closed-boundary schools](#) is updated on the Division website prior to registration each year. For the 2024-25 school year, the following schools have closed boundaries for the French Immersion program and will therefore not accept registrations from non-designated or non-resident students unless the sibling clause applies.

- Ardrossan Elementary
- Ardrossan Junior Senior High
- École Parc Élémentaire

Q: How do I know my child is keeping up?

A: Creating and maintaining ongoing communication with school staff is an important means for parents and caregivers to support their child's education. While the Division has several formal checkpoints during the school year—such as parent-teacher interviews and report cards, which inform caregivers of their child's progress—families and teachers often also communicate frequently and informally throughout the year—including by phone, email and in-person meetings.

Q: Will my child's English language learning be affected?

A: French Immersion is an additive language program and, long-term, won't hinder English language learning or another home language. An initial delay in English language skills is typical because of the more intensive exposure to French in the early years of school, but it's not permanent.

Q: Is the curriculum different?

A: The Alberta French Immersion curriculum is the same as the Alberta English curriculum. The only difference is that French Immersion students have one extra course—French Immersion Language Arts and Literature, in kindergarten to Grade 6, and French Language Arts, in grades 7-12.

Q: My child has a learning disability. Would this program suit them?

A: Research tells us that learning disabilities do not preclude students from participating in second-language instruction. Typically, if a student has trouble with a concept or ability, that struggle exists regardless of the language of instruction. For example, if they struggle with a math concept—such as addition—taught in French, they'll experience the same struggles with it if taught in English. The student is likely struggling to understand the concept of addition, not the language of instruction.

Q: What do students earn at the end of their Grade 12 French Immersion studies?

Elk Island Public Schools awards a French Immersion Certificate to students who:

- complete at least two courses in French—one of which must be French Language Arts—at the 30-level and
- earn at least 30 total credits in French Immersion—six courses—throughout their three years in high school.
 - French Language Arts
 - Études Sociales
 - Sciences
 - Biologie
 - Mathématiques
 - Chimie



Q: Is busing provided for French Immersion students?

A: Elk Island Public Schools provides [student transportation](#) to eligible kindergarten to Grade 12 students who require transportation to and from the school they've been designated or directed to attend—including French Immersion students. In some cases, enhanced services are available for an additional [fee](#) for students who are distance ineligible or attending a school or program they're not designated to. To inquire about specific transportation services available for your child, contact Student Transportation at 780-417-8151 or st@eips.ca.