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Canada has two official languages: French and English. Ontario students in the public school system learn French as part of their comprehensive education. School boards offer a variety of enhanced French programming for students who wish to improve their French language proficiency. By learning another language, your child has the opportunity to study other cultures and may have more career options in the future.

This booklet aims to provide information to parents about the various French programs offered by the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB).

French Programs at the Waterloo Region District School Board

Beginning in grade one, students have access to French language programs through the **Core French** and **French Immersion** pathways. At the secondary level, Core French is available to all students while Extended French and French Immersion are available to those students who participated in French Immersion at the elementary level.

Contact Information

For more information about French programs, please call: 519 570 0003 x 4277, or visit the Board website at www.wrdsb.ca



Elementary School French: Core and Immersion

ABOUT CORE FRENCH

As part of the regular curriculum, Core French is taught to all students in all WRDSB elementary schools from grades one to eight. Students learn the French language by speaking, reading, and writing. In grade nine, students are required to take one French course.

The goal of the Core French program is to provide French instruction for part of the school day so that your child has the confidence to use French effectively in their daily lives.

ABOUT FRENCH IMMERSION

Beginning September 2015, students enrolled in French Immersion in grade 1 and continuing to grade 8 will be participating in a French Immersion program that offers 50% of their day in French.

In grades 1-6 the subjects taught in French are French Language, Mathematics, Social Studies and Visual Arts. In grades 7 and 8 the subjects taught in French include French Language, Geography, History, Visual Art and Health and Physical Education.

By completing the French Immersion program from grades 1-8, your child will be eligible to enrol in either Immersion or Extended French at the secondary level.

The goal of the WRDSB French Immersion program is to provide a level of French instruction so that your child has a level of fluency and comfort to communicate effectively with other French speakers.



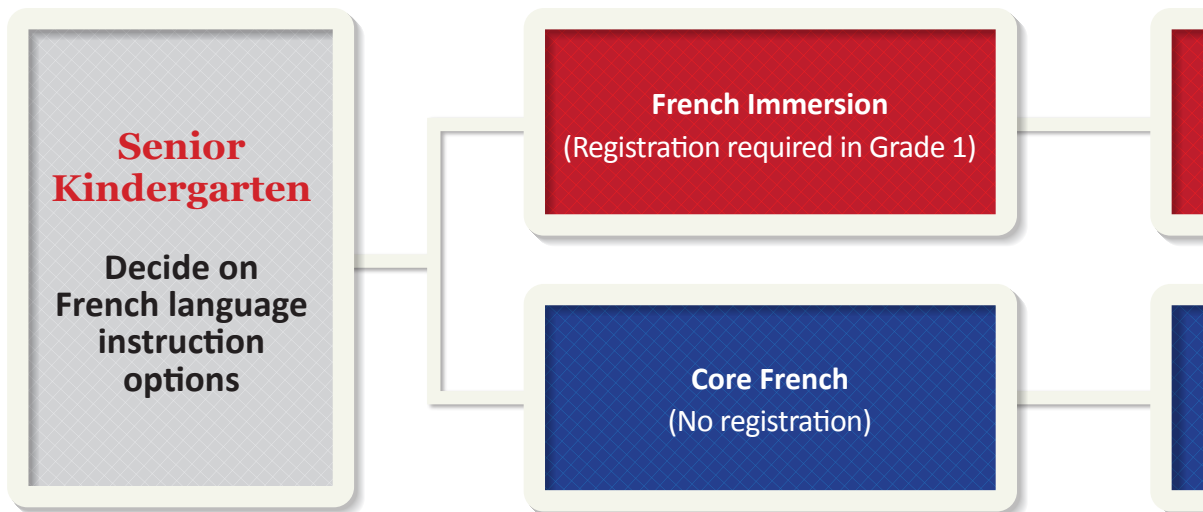


Secondary School French

Core French is as a secondary school credit that is compulsory in grade nine. In grades ten, eleven and twelve, students may continue studying French as a Second Language by choosing one Core French course per year.

Extended French and French Immersion are the two pathways available to those students who have completed the Elementary Immersion program and who wish to continue with more intensive French instruction.

French Instruction Pathways for WRDSB



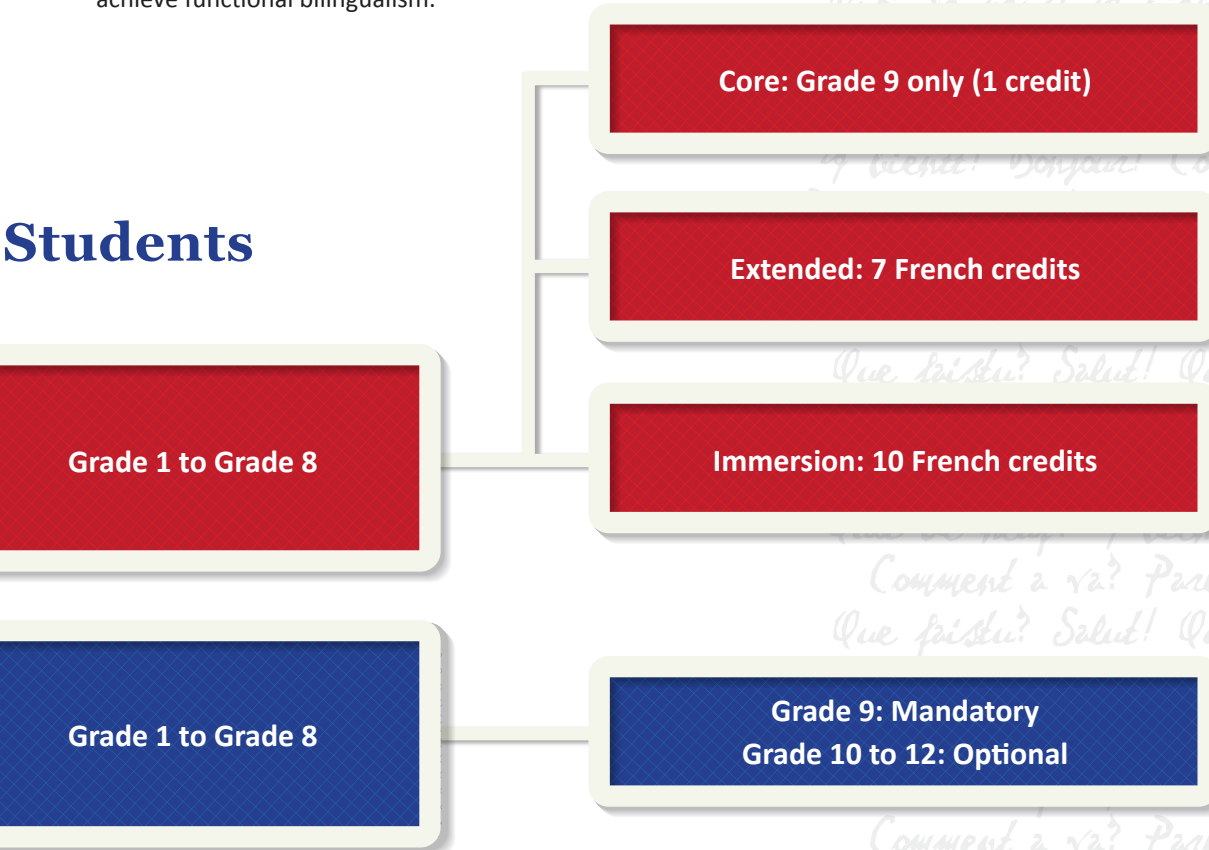
: Core, Extended, & Immersion

Both Extended French and French Immersion options require students to complete four French language courses. However, students in the **Extended French** program must also complete a minimum of **three** courses in other subjects taught in French. Students in the **French Immersion** program are required to complete a minimum of **six** courses in other subjects taught in French.

The goal of the Extended French and French Immersion programs at the secondary level is to advance your child's French comprehension and communication skills to achieve functional bilingualism.



Students





FAQs

...about Elementary French Immersion

ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY

What criteria does the Board use to offer the French Immersion program at a school?

When there is enough interest and if space is available, any school may be considered as a possible site for the French Immersion program. The decision to expand into other schools is made by the end of March for the following school year. Please note that these are not the only factors staff consider when determining which schools will offer an Immersion program.

If my child does not begin the grade one French Immersion program, could I provide tutoring for him/her so that he/she may enroll in grade two?

No. Parents must decide to start their child on the French Immersion pathway in grade one. Tutoring will not provide your child with the required number of hours in French language instruction to ensure that they are at the same level as their peers by grade two.

REGISTRATION

How do I find out how to register my child for grade one French Immersion?

In November, we hold information nights at all the current elementary schools offering the French Immersion program. At these meetings, we explain the on-line registration process and answer questions about our French as a Second Language programs. We also advertise in the local newspapers and send home a flyer with all senior kindergarten students at our schools.

Does the Board limit the number of students who can register for grade one French Immersion?

Our process is designed to accommodate as many students as possible.

How do I register my child for grade one French Immersion?

Each year, registration opens in early January and closes on January 31 so that we can establish the schools that will offer the program for the following school year. By using a lottery system, we can establish grade one French Immersion classes, with preference given to neighbourhood students who register before January 31. We continue to accept registrations for the remainder of the year, up to the first week of October of the grade one year. The specific dates vary from year to year and are communicated as part of our parent information nights, advertisements, and website information.

My neighbourhood school has French Immersion. When I register, will my child have priority to attend that school?

Students who live within the boundary of the neighbourhood school, or who have an older sibling attending a French Immersion school, are considered “home” school students for the purpose of grade one French Immersion registration. Students in these situations have priority for entry into the grade one French Immersion class.

If my child arrives to the WRDSB later than October, may he/she enroll in grade one French Immersion?

Each case is assessed individually depending on the type of French program in which the student was previously enrolled and the level of French written and spoken by the student. An assessment would be required before your child can attend the program.

OUT OF BOUNDARY CONSIDERATIONS

If a student will enroll in grade one Immersion, must a Principal in a school offering the French Immersion program accept an “out of boundary” child for Kindergarten?

A Principal must accept an “out of boundary” student for Kindergarten if the student has a sibling enrolled in the Immersion program at the school. Otherwise, the decision to accept the student is made by the Principal of the school with the French Immersion program, in consultation with the Principal of the school the child normally would attend.

If an “out of boundary” student has been allowed to attend Kindergarten in a school offering Immersion then will the student be considered to be from within the school boundary area for entry into French Immersion in grade one?

No. In this case, the student is considered to be from within the school boundary if he/she had a sibling currently enrolled in the Immersion program.

TRANSPORTATION

Will the Board offer transportation to students enrolled in the Immersion program?

Transportation to a French Immersion program offered at an out of boundary school, ie a school that is not your child’s neighbourhood school, is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The regular walking distance policy applies to students attending their neighbourhood school for the French Immersion program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about French as a Second Language programs, please call: 519 570 0003 x 4277, or visit the Board website at www.wrdsb.ca/french

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

offering the French Immersion program (for the 2015/16 school year):

CAMBRIDGE

Centennial
Clemens Mill
Elgin Street
Hespeler
Highland
Moffat Creek
Ryerson
St Andrew's*
Tait Street

TOWNSHIPS

Baden
John Mahood
Park Manor**

KITCHENER

Brigadoon
Crestview
Doon*
Driftwood Park
Franklin
JF Carmichael
JW Gerth
Sandhills
Sheppard
Southridge
Stanley Park*
Suddaby
WT Townshend
Westheights*
Westmount
Williamsburg

WATERLOO

Abraham Erb
Centennial*
Edna Staebler
Elizabeth Ziegler
Empire
Keatsway
Laurelwood
Lester B. Pearson
MacGregor*
Mary Johnston
Millen Woods
NA MacEachern
Sandowne
Westvale

*senior elementary school with grades 7 and 8 **senior elementary school with grades 6, 7 and 8

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

offering Extended French and French Immersion programs:

EXTENDED PROGRAM

Forest Heights Collegiate Institute
Galt Collegiate Institute
Grand River Collegiate Institute
Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate
& Vocational School
Waterloo Collegiate Institute

IMMERSION PROGRAM

Galt Collegiate Institute
Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate
& Vocational School



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