Greater Essex County District School Board

Title: Admission to French Immersion

Category: Operational Procedure
Department: Student Achievement and Program
Responsibility: Superintendent of Education, Professional Learning, Program/Curriculum
Effective Date: March 24, 2026
Review Date: March 24, 2026
Next Review Date: 2031

Rationale

The Greater Essex County District School Board is committed to providing equitable access to high quality French Immersion programming that supports student achievement. The purpose of the Operational Procedure supports the implementation of the Board's admission to French Immersion programs by ensuring that admission practices are transparent, consistent and align with the Ministry of Education requirements, while supporting student success in French Immersion programming.

This Operational Procedure applies to:

- Elementary students seeking admission to French Immersion programs.
- Parents/guardians requesting admission to French Immersion.
- School administrators and Board staff responsible for admissions placement and assessment.

This procedure applies to initial entry and late entry into French Immersion programs.

Definitions

French Immersion (FI) Program

A French as a Second Language (FSL) program in which French is the language of instruction for a minimum of

- 100% French instruction for Kindergarten to Grade 1
- 80% French instruction for Grade 2 to 5
- 50% French instruction for Grade 6 to 8

in accordance with the Ontario curriculum.

French Proficiency Assessment

A Board-approved assessment used to determine whether a student entering French Immersion after Grade 1 demonstrates grade proficiency in:

- Listening (oral comprehension)
- Speaking (oral production)
- Reading (writing comprehension)
- Writing (written production)

DELF (Diplome d'études en langue française)

An internationally recognized French Language Proficiency Certificate that consists of a series of assessments aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), used as a model for GECDSB's French proficiency assessment tools.

Procedure

1. Admission to French Immersion Program

1.1. Admissions for Kindergarten

Junior Kindergarten (Year 1) and Senior Kindergarten (Year 2) students may be admitted to the French Immersion program at any point throughout the school year.

1.2. Admissions for Grade 1

Students entering Grade 1 shall be admitted to the French Immersion program up to October 1st without the requirement of a French Proficiency Assessment.

1.3. Admissions after October 1st (Grade 1 and Above)

Any students seeking admission to French Immersion after October 1st of Grade 1 is required and must demonstrate grade-level proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in French.

- A Board-approved French Proficiency Assessment must be administered.
- The assessment may include fluency tasks and/or written components to ensure the student's readiness for successful integration into the French Immersion program.

1.4 Assessment Tools

A Board-approved French Proficiency Assessment tool shall be administered based on:

- DELF A1.1 booklets and audio documents for Primary students, and
- DELF A1 booklets and audio documents for Junior and Intermediate students.

Each assessment must include 1-2 activities from each of the following components:

- Listening (oral comprehension)
- Speaking (oral production)
- Reading (writing comprehension)
- Writing (written production)

Materials are available through DELF Prim-Proficiency Assessment.
Assessment materials are maintained by the Board and administered by qualified staff.

1.5 Admission Decisions

Admission decisions shall be based on the French Proficiency Assessment tool results and the student's readiness for instruction delivered in French. Parents/guardians shall be informed of the outcome.

1.6 Roles and Responsibilities

1.6.1 Superintendent of Education

- Oversees the implementation and compliance of this procedure.
- Ensures the Board-approved French Proficiency Assessment is maintained.

1.6.2 Principals

- Ensure consistent implementation of the administration of the Board-approved French Proficiency Assessment.
- Communicate the decision for admission into the French Immersion program.

1.6.3 Teacher

- Maintain and administer the Board-approved French Proficiency Assessment.
- Consult and support Administration with admission decision.

2. Transportation

2.1 All policies and procedures related to transportation for students in French Immersion remain in effect and will not be modified to accommodate French Immersion admission.

Reference

- Education Act – Education Act
- Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services – Transportation and Eligibility Policy
- Ontario Curriculum: French as a Second Language
- Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services – Buskids.ca

Appendix

Board-approved French proficiency assessment tool DELF Prim-Proficiency Assessment