



Policy Manual – Students

S.P.02—French Immersion Program

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model

POLICY STATEMENT

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSD) recognizes the educational benefits of offering a French Immersion (FI) Program in which students receive extensive instruction and develop facility in the French language consistent with the philosophy and expectations outlined in the *Ontario Curriculum: French as a Second Language, Core French, Grades 4-8, Extended French Grades 4-8, French Immersion Grades 1-8, 2013* and ***Ontario Curriculum: French as a Second Language, Core French, Extended French, and French Immersion Grades 9-12, 2014***.

The French Immersion Program is located at the following **five elementary schools** and one secondary **school**:

- **St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Elementary School**
- St. Eugene Catholic Elementary School
- St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School
- Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Elementary School
- **St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School**
- Cathedral High School

Admission into the French Immersion Program shall be at the beginning of September in Year 2 of Kindergarten. Registration for the program is in February (the same as regular track English schools). Parents or guardians who wish their children to receive instruction in French may enroll them in the French Immersion Program. Should space be available, subject to an assessment by the Planning Department, and in consultation with the principal, admission of Year 1 Kindergarten students into the French Immersion Program may be possible.

Information about the French Immersion Program is to be sent to all Catholic Elementary Schools in the HWCDSD to appropriately inform parents. Each parent/guardian of a child in their first year of Kindergarten shall be provided this information.

An information session regarding the specifics of French Immersion programming is to be offered for parents or guardians in November of each school year.

A secondary French Immersion Program is available so that students may complete the ministry requirement of 10 courses at the secondary level to obtain a certificate of bilingual studies.

If students leave the French Immersion Program, they are required to return to the homeschool unless there is available space in the English Program at the French Immersion school. If the student has siblings in the French Program, they may be given priority for admission as an exception to boundary.

Transportation may be provided for all eligible students enrolled in the French Immersion Program to and from their home school (local/neighbourhood elementary school).

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide admission procedures and outline program offerings for the French Immersion Program within the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

Responsibility

Superintendent and Principals of French Immersion Schools

Regulations - NA

Related Policies

S.A.01—School Admissions

S.T.01—Student Transportation

Related Board Committee: Committee of the Whole

Policy Review Date

BM Original Policy Approved 21 March 1978

Revisions:0 6 May 2014, 07 April 2015, 16 March 2021

To be reviewed every three years