



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name: FRENCH LANGUAGE
Section: School Programs

Policy Code: ES-3.15

Established: November 24, 2020
**Revised or
Reviewed:** February 25, 2025

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) commits to offering effective and inclusive French Language learning. In alignment with KPR's strategic priorities, French language learning supports student success in differentiated and diverse learning pathways responsive to the unique strengths, skills and needs of all students. Informed by the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), the overarching goal of all three French programs is to place students in real-life situations where they must use their developing skills in French authentically. The Board offers Core French in all schools with Grades 4-12. The Ministry of Education curriculum also includes two optional programs: French Immersion and Extended French. KPR believes that all students can be successful in learning French.

2. OBJECTIVE

The variety of French programs within KPR provides students from diverse backgrounds and abilities, the ability to communicate and interact with growing confidence in French, one of Canada's official languages. Students develop the knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to participate fully and equitably as citizens in Canada and the world.

The policy authorizes the creation of administrative regulations with respect to French language. These administrative regulations provide guidance to KPR staff with the administration of French instruction in KPR.

The board is required to adhere to all applicable legislation including, but not limited to, the Education Act.

3. DEFINITIONS

Administrative Regulation

A document issued through the Director of Education, governing the implementation of a Board policy, or required to coordinate and control certain aspects of system operations.

Board

The corporate Board which maintains the daily operation of the system; Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board; a reference specifically pertaining to Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board as a legal entity; also referred to as KPR or KPRDSB.

Board of Trustees

The elected governance branch of the Board.

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is an international standard for describing language ability on a six-point scale from A1 for beginners, up to C2 for those who have mastered a language. The CEFR is widely used across Europe and other countries like Canada.

Core French

Core French is mandatory from Grades 4 to 8 for all students in English-language elementary schools. Students entering Grade 4 must receive French instruction in every year from Grade 4 to Grade 8 and must have accumulated a minimum of 600 hours of French instruction by the end of Grade 8. Students must also complete one credit in French as a Second Language to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Diploma in French Studies (DELF)

The DELF examination assesses a student's proficiency in different areas, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking, which are essential for mastering the language. Students have the option to challenge the DELF when taking any Grade 12 French program.

Extended French

The Extended French program requires that French is the language of instruction for minimum of 25 per cent of the total instructional time at every grade level of the program and provide a minimum of 1260 hours of instruction in French by the end of Grade 8. In Grades 9-12 students continue their learning by engaging in four (4) French Language credit courses plus three (3) additional credits taught in French. In KPR schools, where Extended French programs are offered, students enter this program in Grade 5.

French Immersion

The French Immersion program requires French to be the language of instruction for a minimum of 50 per cent of the total instructional time at every grade level of the program and provide a minimum of 3800 hours of instruction in French by the end of Grade 8. In Grades 9 -12 students continue their learning with four (4) French Language credit courses plus six (6) additional credits taught in French; In KPR schools, where French Immersion programs are offered, students enter this program in Year 2 Kindergarten.

French as a Second Language (FSL) Curriculum

The Ministry of Education released an updated French as a Second Language Curriculum- Elementary in 2013 and Secondary in 2014.

4. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all members of the board community which includes, but is not limited to, students, staff, trustees, and parents/guardians.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Education is responsible for ensuring the implementation of, and compliance with, this policy, including the designation of required resources.

The Superintendent responsible for Teaching and Learning K-12 is responsible for:

- the guidelines and directives within this policy and related administrative regulations.

Family of Schools superintendents are responsible for:

- ensuring that principals are aware of this policy and are consistent with the implementation of this policy document.

Principals or their designate are responsible for:

- implementing this policy and associated administrative regulation, and taking the initiative to seek appropriate guidance from their family of schools superintendent, whenever necessary,
- ensuring that school staff are carrying out their responsibilities under this policy and associated administrative regulation.

Educators are responsible for ensuring that they are knowledgeable about this policy document and those who are responsible for French instruction and learning are responsible for providing opportunities for students to engage in learning through the delivery of culturally relevant and responsive French instruction.

6. POLICY

The ability to speak and understand French enables students to connect with French-speaking communities in Canada and globally. It fosters an appreciation for the rich and diverse histories and cultures and provides a competitive edge in the workforce.

6.1 Goals of French Instruction

6.1.1

Through meaningful interactions, using evidence-based instruction, informed by ongoing assessment to differentiate supports for students while exploring the language by hearing, speaking, reading and then writing. Student confidence and proficiency develop over time and with increased exposure.

6.1.2

French contributes to overall literacy development. Students in French programs benefit from enhanced cognitive flexibility, improved problem-solving abilities, a deeper appreciation of diverse cultures and expanded career opportunities.

6.2 Distribution of French Language Programs

Initial establishment or elimination of optional and additional French language programs within a defined attendance boundary shall require the approval of the Board. Every effort shall be made for program continuity where feasible.

7. RELATED POLICIES, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS OR PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS**Board Policies:**

[BA-8.1, Student Eligibility](#)

[BA-1.2, Pupil Accommodation Review: School Closure/Consolidation](#)

Administrative Regulations

[French Language Programs – Immersion ES-3.15.1](#)

[French Language Programs – Extended ES-3.15.2](#)

[BA-7.1.2, Student Transfers](#)

Procedural Documents:

[Elementary School Timetable Guiding Principles](#)

8. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**Other Documents:**

[French as a Second Language Grades 1- 8](#), 2013

[French as a Second Language: Grades 9 -12](#), 2014, updated September 2022

[Including Students with Special Education Needs in French as a Second Language Programs: A Guide for Ontario Schools](#), 2015

[Welcoming English Language Learners into French as a Second Language Programs](#), 2016