

# Early French Immersion



## What is Early French Immersion?

Early French Immersion is an intensive French Language Program that begins in Kindergarten and continues through to Grade 12. All class activities in Grades JK to 3 are conducted in French. A specialist subject (e.g. Health and Physical Education) may be taught in English. In Grades 4-8, the program will be taught 50% in French and 50% in English.

### Who can apply?

All children entering Junior Kindergarten are eligible to apply for Early French Immersion.

## Who is Early French Immersion for?

- ✓ Designed for families who speak a language other than French at home.
- ✓ We believe strongly that all students are capable of learning another language so students of all learning styles and language backgrounds are welcomed and supported in the program.
- ✓ The Early French Immersion program is suited to all families who are interested in the opportunity to develop proficiency in French.

## Benefits of the Early Immersion Program

The Early French Immersion program allows students of any language background to develop a high level of proficiency in French. Studying another language in this way also offers many other benefits to students including:

- ✓ Studying in another language has proven to enhance students' skills in the dominant language.
- ✓ Language learning offers other cognitive benefits such as highly-developed thinking and learning skills that students apply to all areas of their studies.
- ✓ Proficiency in more than one language opens doors of opportunity to students for the future and fosters awareness of different cultures and identities.
- ✓ Bilingual students develop strong communication skills overall and may learn additional languages more easily.

## Application Information

For information on the Early French Immersion program and the application process, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/French](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/French).

Currently, the application window for the Early French Immersion program is in **November** of each year. Please refer to the website in early September for information on the application deadlines for a given year.

It is important to note that while placement in the program is guaranteed to all eligible on-time applicants, a placement in a particular school is **NOT** guaranteed.



## What does the research say?

“Students in FI achieve advanced proficiency in French as well as mastery of school content (Science, Social Studies, Math etc.) equivalent to similar students studying this content in English.”  
(Wesche, 2002)

Studies from various parts of Canada found no negative effects for EFI or MFI elementary school immersion students in mathematics, science and social studies achievement when tested in English.  
(Wesche, 2002)

Even though a child’s first language may not be a societal language, children can successfully learn an additional language, such as French, while learning English as a second language simultaneously.  
(O’Brien, 2017)

Data showed that students enrolled in French-Immersion programs outperformed in their counterparts in non-immersion programs in reading performance.  
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/040322/dq040322a-eng.htm>

## Bibliography

Wesche, M.B. (2002) Early French Immersion: How has the original Canadian model stood the test of time? An Integrated View of Language Development, Petra Burmeister, Thorsten Piske, and Andreas Rohde (Eds), WVT Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier.  
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