

FSL REVIEW Recommendations

Board Standing Committee
September 19, 2012

Mandate

- Review the current FSL programs offered by the YRDSB, both Core and French Immersion
- Refreshed curriculum from Ministry

GOAL

- High quality, sustainable French as a second language programs

FSL Review Process

- Other Boards
- YRDSB Data
- Stakeholder Input
- Literature Review

WHAT WE LEARNED

Core French

- Issues are the same nationwide
- Clear expectations are needed
- Teacher professional learning is the key to address the concerns
- Earlier start is not recommended
- Learning the language needs to be a more authentic experience, focusing on oral communication
- Block scheduling may be beneficial

French Immersion

- Early immersion is the most effective model
- YRDSB program is highly regarded by all stakeholders
- Need for consistency in hours and subjects offered in French
- Can be offered in dual track or single track
- Clarify expectations for special education services and accommodations

FI Models

- Early total Immersion (YRDSB)
 - Most successful
 - Inclusive
- Partial Immersion (50%)
 - Less proficiency in French
- Middle Immersion (grade 4 entry)
 - Less inclusive
 - Net loss in funding close to 1M

OUR THINKING ABOUT SPACE ACCOMMODATION

Current Model

- Single Track (1-8)
- Dual Track (1-8)
- Issues
 - New residential growth will generate demand for new FI pupil places
 - FI demand exceeds existing pupil places using current single and dual models
 - Traditional 1-8 duals need ~350 pupil places which is only available with new schools

Accommodation Goals

- Use existing pupil places where available
- FI and regular enrolment to be balanced at dual track locations
- Address FI demand from new residential growth
 - “Build one pupil place per child” to address new growth

Accommodation Tool Kit

- Single Track (1-8)
- Dual Track (1-8)
- New Dual Track (Grades TBD)
- Goals:
 - Flexibility in addressing local needs
 - Use existing pupil places in vicinity, regardless of language of instruction
 - Where no pupil places exist in the vicinity, strategic acquisition of additional space (portables/additions)
 - FI and regular enrolment to be balanced at dual track locations

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

Core French

- Infuse French in the primary grades through various subjects in an authentic way
- Raise the profile of French in all schools (for example, in assemblies, opening exercises, newsletter, bilingual signing, character traits posters) and promote the benefit of knowing both Canada's official languages
- Focus on authentic oral language use
- Provide varied professional learning opportunities for Core French teachers with a focus on co-work and differentiation
- Integrate technology effectively to engage students and to provide authentic and relevant topics of conversations

French Immersion

- Establish consistency among all schools in YRDSB (hours and subjects)
- Clarify expectations for special education services and accommodations
- Use existing vacant pupil spaces to create a variety of dual-track programs

Next Steps

- Implementation Plan
 - Communications
 - Professional development
 - Clarify expectations for special education services and accommodations
 - Refreshed curriculum from Ministry
- Regular updates at Program Planning