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FRENCH IMMERSION POLICY	4040

1. Rationale

Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) operates a Core Program from Grades 4 to 12 which allows students to develop communication skills in French and an understanding of the culture of French speaking societies.

A French Immersion Program goes further and allows students to become functionally bilingual. Upon completion of a French Immersion Program, students will be able to choose further education with French as the language of instruction at the post-secondary level or accept employment using French as the working language.

An immersion program is offered to parents and guardians who desire this alternative for their children in education.

2. The Policy

It is the policy of LDSB to operate an Early French Immersion program intended for children whose first language is not French, and to offer programs suitable for students graduating from the Early French Immersion program and to any other students deemed capable of profiting from the continuing French Immersion programs.

3. Definitions

Early French Immersion - is a program in which a child enrolls in Senior Kindergarten and requires that all instruction in the first two years be carried on in French. English is introduced for approximately one quarter of the day through the remainder of the primary and lower junior divisions, until Grades 6, 7 and 8 where the instruction is in English for approximately one half of the day.

Continuing French Immersion - is a term applied to the continuation of French Immersion at the secondary school level.

The Ontario Curriculum expectations apply, but the language of instruction is fully or partially in French.

4. Guidelines

Early French Immersion

4.1 The Early French Immersion program (Elementary) will be considered a Senior Kindergarten - Grade 8 program.

4.2 The Early French Immersion program shall be offered subject to adequate enrolment and the availability of qualified staff, at locations designated by LDSB.

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- 4.3 To provide the most appropriate program for students experiencing significant difficulties, compounded by learning a second language, the principal may recommend to parents a transfer of the student to the English program.
- 4.4 Where applicable, the Early French Immersion program will operate under the same principles of school organization as other Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 schools within LDSB.
- 4.5 In the dual track elementary school, French Immersion and English programs will be staffed separately.
- 4.6 Students in the urban area will be transported from designated neighbourhood pick-up points to the French Immersion schools. Transportation for rural students will be provided where suitable arrangements can be made at a reasonable cost.

Continuing French Immersion

- 4.7 The Continuing French Immersion Program will be considered a Grade 9 - 12 program.
- 4.8 The Continuing French Immersion Program will be available to graduates of an elementary French Immersion Program or to any student deemed capable.
- 4.9 The Continuing French Immersion Program shall be offered subject to adequate enrolment and the availability of qualified staff, at a location(s) designed by LDSB.
- 4.10 Courses will normally be offered at the academic and university level until such time as numbers warrant.
- 4.11 The course selection will be on a limited program basis until such time as numbers warrant.
- 4.12 The secondary facility at which the program is housed will be staffed as one school.

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5. Review

This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with 2010 Policy Development and Review Policy.

<u>Cross Reference</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Legal Reference</u>
3040 Transportation	October 1985	_____
Bd. Resolution - March 6, 1984	<u>Date Revised</u> June 24, 2008 June 28, 2016 April 23, 2024	_____