





## Why do francophone schools exist?

Francophone schools exist to revitalize French language and culture and reverse the rate of assimilation among francophones in Alberta.

### What are the major goals of a francophone school?

That students:

- Identify with an integrate into the francophone community;
- Acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes as prescribed in the Alberta Program of Studies;
- Develop and maintain a high level of proficiency in the English and French languages.

## Francophone Education Eligibility

**My spouse is Anglophone. I am francophone.  
Is my child eligible to enroll in a francophone school?**

**Yes.** *A student is eligible to enrol in a francophone school if at least one of the following criteria is met. A student:*

1. Whose parent's first language learned and still understood is French;
2. Whose parent's primary or secondary education was in French in Canada;
3. Whose sibling has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in French in Canada.

**My child is eligible to enroll in a francophone school.  
My spouse does not speak French.**

Many students enrolled in francophone schools have at least one Anglophone parent. Anglophone parents play an important role in francophone schools and have the right to participate fully in the education of their children. Francophone schools provide support and services for Anglophone parents so this can take place.

**My parents speak French. I do not.  
Am I eligible to enroll my child in a francophone school?**

Yes. Given the spirit of Article 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (to revitalize francophone communities in predominantly Anglophone areas) children whose grandparent's:

- language first learned and still understood is French;
- primary school instruction was in Canada in French;

are also invited to attend a francophone school.

**My child does not speak French.  
May he or she attend a francophone school?**

Yes. Your child is eligible to enroll in a francophone school if:

- The language you first learned and still understand is French;
- You received your primary school instruction in Canada in French;
- Your child's sibling is receiving or has received primary or secondary school instruction in Canada in French.

**EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES** *(in accordance with CSNO policy) – Meeting one of the conditions below is a first step in applying for eligibility under the conditions of the **Exceptional Circumstances Policy** of the CSNO.*

*A student may be eligible for enrolment if one of the following criteria is met:*

- A parent or grandparent is of French heritage and would like their child/grandchild to reintegrate French culture and identity into their lives.
- A parent would like his/her child to maintain their French language, culture, identity. (i.e. a permanent resident or immigrant to Canada.)
- A student who had been enrolled previously in an Immersion Program and whereas a French Immersion program is not available in the community where a francophone school under the jurisdiction of the Conseil scolaire du Nord-Ouest N<sup>o</sup> 1 is located.

## Balanced bilingualism

### **Do students enrolled in francophone schools learn English language arts?**

Yes, beginning in Grade 3, francophone schools deliver the same English language arts curriculum as English schools.

### **Are francophone school programs designed by Alberta Learning?**

Yes, francophone schools follow programs designed by Alberta Learning which outline expectations of academic excellence in all subject areas.

### **Is English language mastery important in francophone schools?**

Francophone schools promote both English and French language mastery. Upon graduation students are able to use their skills in both English and French to live, work and study in either language.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.csno.ab.ca](http://www.csno.ab.ca) or call us at 1-866-624-8855.

## **FRENCH EDUCATION: YOUR BEST CHOICE EVER!**

- ✓ Our schools emphasize excellence, success and the complete development of all students.
- ✓ A number of studies, at an international level, show that francophone schools provide the only effective way for a child to become bilingual.
- ✓ In addition to teaching the prescribed Alberta Education Program of Studies, our students are exposed to diverse francophone cultures.
- ✓ The mastery of two languages, French and English, offers numerous openings and opportunities at the university level and for the labor market.
- ✓ Our schools facilitate students' capacity to develop a sense of belonging to their community.
- ✓ The high standards defined by our schools create a stimulating environment favoring the students' intellectual development, creativity and fluency in both official languages.

### ***LE FRANÇAIS BIEN SÛR... ENGLISH, OF COURSE!***

True bilingualism is possible by teaching French as a first language. Our students are living proof of our success. Our schools provide numerous educational activities as a basis for students to enjoy speaking French, and they offer opportunities to express their pride in their francophone heritage.

Starting in grade 3, Alberta francophone students receive at least 240 minutes of English language instruction per week as prescribed by Alberta Education's Program of Studies. The course content is identical to that taught in English schools.

In grades 6, 9 and 12, our students meet or exceed the provincial average in English Language Arts testing. Also, our students speak English with little or no accent. Our graduates are bilingual and are easily able to attend postsecondary institutions in Canada's official languages.

We also offer English as second language programming to students who need to improve their English language skills.



## A WORLD OF DIFFERENCES

# FRANCOPHONE $\neq$ IMMERSION

### Differences between Francophone School and French immersion schools

<b>Francophone School</b>		<b>French Immersion School</b>
For students whose parent's first language is French and who want their child to learn it as a first language.	<b>Students</b>	For students who want to learn French as a second language.
<p>Any Canadian student eligible according to Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The parent's first language learned and still understood is French;</li> <li>◆ His parent, brother or sister received elementary instruction in French.</li> </ul> <p>(The principal can make exceptions.)</p>	<b>Eligibility</b>	Any student wishing to learn French as a second language in an immersion context.
<p>To master French and achieve complete fluency in the language.</p> <p>To reach a high level of French/English additive bilingualism.</p> <p>To identify oneself completely with the French language and culture and to participate actively in the French community.</p> <p>To know, appreciate and acquire the French language and culture.</p>	<b>Goals</b>	<p>To acquire a functional competency in French.</p> <p>To learn a second language and to master English.</p> <p>While respecting the cultural and linguistic identity of students, to give them the opportunity to know and appreciate the French language and culture.</p>
<p>Instruction is offered entirely in French except for English starting in Grade 3.</p> <p>French is taught as a first language and is used as the language of instruction to reinforce the student's francophone identity, linguistic competency, culture and integration into the francophone community.</p>	<b>Teaching</b>	Depending on the location and grade level, instruction is offered primarily in French or partially in French.

<b>Francophone School</b>		<b>French Immersion School</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 100% French in Kindergarten</li> <li>◆ 100% French in Grades 1–2</li> <li>◆ 80% French in Grades 3–6</li> <li>◆ 80% French in Grades 7–12</li> </ul>	<b>Teaching in French</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 100% French in Kindergarten</li> <li>◆ 70–100% French in Grades 1–2</li> <li>◆ 60–80% French in Grades 3–6</li> <li>◆ 20–70% French in Grades 7–12</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 0 min/week Grades 1–2</li> <li>◆ 240 min/week Grades 3–6</li> <li>◆ 210 min/week Grades 7–12</li> </ul>	<b>Teaching of English</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 0 to 240 min/week Grades 1–2</li> <li>◆ 240 min/week Grades 3–6</li> <li>◆ 210 min/week Grades 7–12</li> </ul>
<p>Generally, these students do well to very well on written tests in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12, in both French and English.</p> <p>These students perform very well on French oral tests because they speak French fluently.</p> <p>These students perform very well on English oral tests and speak the language without an accent.</p>	<b>Academic Success</b>	<p>Generally, these students do well in written tests in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12 in both French and English.</p> <p>These students do not perform as well on French oral tests because their vocabulary and fluency are limited.</p> <p>These students perform very well on English oral tests and speak the language without an accent.</p>
<p>The students are motivated to speak and to live in French.</p> <p>Generally, these students speak French outside the classroom.</p>	<b>Use of French</b>	<p>The students are encouraged to speak French.</p> <p>Generally, these students speak English outside the classroom.</p>
<p>The activities promote and strengthen the identity and pride in one's francophone origin.</p>	<b>Cultural Activities</b>	<p>The activities contribute to the appreciation of the French language and culture.</p>
<p>Activities are in French.</p>	<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<p>Activities are mainly in English.</p>
<p>By their ancestry and culture, the teachers are francophone and live in French.</p> <p>They are active participants in the francophone community and believe in the values of francophone schools.</p>	<b>Teachers</b>	<p>The teachers are francophone or French speaking who have mastered the French language.</p> <p>They have knowledge of the French culture and believe in bilingualism.</p>

<b>Francophone School</b>		<b>French Immersion School</b>
<p>All administrators are francophone.</p> <p>The administration of the school is conducted in French.</p>	<b>Administration</b>	<p>The administrators can be Anglophone or francophone.</p> <p>The administration of the school is conducted in English.</p>
<p>The francophone program is offered in a distinct and homogeneous French school.</p>	<b>School</b>	<p>French immersion is offered in an immersion centre or in a school which may offer other programs.</p>
<p>Four regional school boards operate 20 francophone schools in Alberta.</p>	<b>School Boards</b>	<p>The program is offered by 35 English school boards.</p>
<p>The governments guarantee access to programs and services in French first language to all eligible students in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Alberta School Act, where numbers warrant.</p>	<b>Right to Education in French</b>	<p>The governments allow the teaching of French as a second language.</p> <p>An English school board can offer a French immersion program.</p>
<p>The student is addressed in French at all times and in all places.</p>	<b>Communication with the Student</b>	<p>The student is addressed in French if the course is in French. In other situations, the use of French can vary.</p>
<p>All information sent by the school to the parent is in French.</p>	<b>Communication with the Parent</b>	<p>All information sent by the school to the parent is in English.</p>
<p>The parent identifies with the French language and culture.</p> <p>The parent is integrated in the francophone community and participates actively in it with his child.</p> <p>The parent can serve on the school council.</p> <p>The parent supports the francophone school.</p>	<b>Parent's Role</b>	<p>The parent is favourable to French culture and language.</p> <p>The parent can provide his child with opportunities to experience French outside of school.</p> <p>The parent can serve on the school council.</p> <p>The parent supports the French immersion program.</p>
<p>About 4 150 francophone students are enrolled in 27 francophone schools.</p>	<b>2005-2006 Enrolments</b>	<p>About 31 500 students are enrolled in 165 immersion schools.</p>

**MYTH:**

It will be easier to help my child with homework in an immersion school than in a Francophone school.

**Reality:** Both programs are in French using the same material, so the difficulty will be the same.



**MYTH:**

I will not be able to understand what my child is saying or doing at school.

**Reality:** Both programs are in French using the same material, so the difficulty will be the same. All the staff at the school is perfectly bilingual and can provide information about what your child is doing at school.

**MYTH:**

My child's education will be different than children going to immersion or English programs.

**Reality:** The Francophone school provides equivalent and quality programs as provided by Alberta Education. Our objective is to offer linguistic, academic and personal development for our students.

Our results show that:

- Chances of success at school are increased
- Competencies in French and English are balanced and superior
- Personal and intellectual development is enhanced
  - Drop outs rates are nearly eliminated

