



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY  
COMMITTEE

APPENDIX D ELEMENTARY FRENCH  
PROGRAMMING POLICY S.P. 02 REPORT.DOCX

*And how is it that we hear, each of us in our own native language. Acts 2:8*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
March 2, 2015	April 13, 2015	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
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RECOMMENDATION REPORT

**Vision:**

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

**Mission:**

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*



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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The TCDSB elementary French program policies were written in 1986 and have not been significantly revised since then, with minor revision in 2006. Recent revisions to the Elementary School Admission and Placement Policy, as well as the School Accommodation Review Policy invite a review of the policies related to French programming. Further changes to program delivery, and the process required to establish or review an Extended French or French Immersion program site all left the current policies related to French programming out of date. Finally, in keeping with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and the TCDSB goal to consolidate the register and bring all policies in line with the Meta-Policy template, this report recommends the adoption of a new policy to govern Elementary French Programming in the TCDSB and the merging of four policies into one new consolidated policy, entitled *Elementary French Programming S.P. 02*.

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. The Multi-Year Strategic Plan identified the work of policy revision and the streamlining of the policy register as a priority. Revisions to program delivery and updates to process for the identification of Extended French and French Immersion Program Centres, as well revisions to the Elementary Admissions Policy and School Accommodation Review policies necessitate a revision of TCDSB Elementary French Program policies.

## **C. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

1. The TCDSB currently has four policies which govern Elementary French Programming: French as a Second Language (FSL) S.P. 02, Establishment of an Elementary Extended French Centre (FSL) S. P. 03, Review of Elementary Extended French Centre (FSL) S.P. 04 and Elementary French Immersion S.P. 10.
2. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, the Board of Trustees approved a new Elementary Admissions Policy S.A. 01, which governs core admission for our English language elementary schools. The policy references regional and specialty programs, as well as the fact that students attending Early French Immersion or Extended French programs are exempt from the admissions policy.



3. The Elementary Admissions Policy does provide for school boundaries for all elementary schools of the TCDSB. Therefore, when considering admission to Elementary French as a Second Language program centre, consideration must be given as to how to equitably govern admissions to Extended French centres which operate as regional centres within the TCDSB.
4. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Board of Trustees approved a new School Accommodation Review policy, which governs the process to consider closing or altering programming at a given school location to maximize Board resources and programming opportunities for all students. There were further amendments on January 15, 2014 and February 19, 2015 approved by Board.
5. The TCDSB has nineteen Extended French as a Second Language Program Centres across the city. As a result, virtually all areas of the city have one regional Extended French program which can be reasonably argued as “their own”.
6. The TCDSB has seven French Immersion Schools in the current 2014-15 school year, with two more approved to open in September 2015 at St Leo and Holy Rosary, and a tenth site approved to open in September 2016 at St. Conrad.
7. The TCDSB program department assists in the development and implementation of the board’s Long Term Accommodation and Program Plan. It is through this process that current decisions regarding Extended French and French Immersion sites are governed. Amongst the key criteria assessed in making recommendations regarding programming are:
  - a. Ensuring a Catholic school presence in all neighbourhoods of the TCDSB;
  - b. Provision of up-to-date enrolment trends and planning projections for student enrolment;
  - c. Equity and availability of similar programs across the schools of the system;
  - d. Availability of facility space within identified schools;
  - e. Availability of qualified staffing resources and collective agreement obligations;
  - f. Budget restrictions and fiscal responsibility.



8. It should be noted that where Extended French Programs are exclusively known as regional programs intended to serve a family of schools, French Immersion programs first are intended to serve the community within the local school boundary and then can be accessed as a regional program if space permits.
9. In situations where a school is currently an Extended French Centre and it is identified as a new site for French Immersion, the Extended French program will be phased out as the French Immersion Program is implemented throughout the grades. In this way the school is dual track (English and French Immersion), but not “triple track” (English, French Immersion and Extended French).
10. A survey of principals at the various Extended French program sites revealed that there were some mixed practices regarding admissions, as there was some confusion regarding the number of allocations and how “host school” students were prioritized versus those from other regional schools.
11. The TCDSB Transportation Policy does not make provision for transportation to regional specialty programs, including French Immersion and Extended French. However, historically TTC tickets have been made available to Extended French Students. As of March 2015, per new city of Toronto practices, the board will no longer have to provide TTC tickets to elementary students under 12, as they will be allowed to ride the TTC at no cost.

## **D. VISION**

<b>VISION</b>	<b>PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>GOALS</b>
Provide one new consolidated policy to govern all elementary French programming.	Aligns with the MYSP goals of Excellence in Governance through policy renewal and revision, as well as Improved Student Achievement and Well Being and Effective Stewardship of	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New consolidated policy consistent with the MYSP Policy Template.</li> <li>2. Clearly understood admission processes for elementary admission to Extended French and</li> </ol>



VISION	PRINCIPLES	GOALS
	Resources.	French Immersion program sites. 3. Clearly understood processes for the identification and for the review of Extended French and French Immersion sites.

## E. ACTION PLAN

1. Consolidating related policies will ease understanding for TCDSB stakeholders and to assist in navigating the TCDSB Policy register. Four policies which are tightly linked and would benefit from merging are: French as a Second Language (FSL) S.P. 02, Establishment of an Elementary Extended French Centre (FSL) S. P. 03, Review of Elementary Extended French Centre (FSL) S.P. 04, and Elementary French Immersion S.P. 10.
2. Given the importance of admissions and the value that stakeholders ascribe to programs they desire, it is important to ensure that practices are transparent and aligned. This goal will be achieved by updating and revising policy to reflect current realities within the TCDSB.
3. Given the updates that have occurred in other relevant TCDSB policies, as outlined above in the evidence and analysis, it is necessary to ensure related policies, such as those related to Elementary French Programming, are also thoughtfully aligned to ensure equity of access and maximum benefit for all TCDSB stakeholders.

## F. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY



1. A review of all French programming will occur within the cycle of curriculum review and will be consistent with all Ministry of Education curriculum guideline revisions.
2. The viability and cost-effectiveness of all Extended French and French Immersion program sites will be reviewed and considered within the context of the Board's Long Term Program Plan.

## **G. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

1. Once the new consolidated Elementary French Program Policy is passed, there will be broad based communication to all TCDSB stakeholders and the following individuals in particular:
  - a. All elementary school principals
  - b. All parents of grade 4-7 students (on an annual basis) and as well prospective new parents (eg., parents of students coming into Junior and Senior Kindergarten).
2. Communication will be supported through the use of the TCDSB website, twitter, e-News, It Starts in the Schools, and email, as well as information shared with parents/guardians, as appropriate.

## **H. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board approve the new consolidated Elementary French Programming Policy S.P. 02 per appendix A.