

# Edmonton Public Schools French Language Renewal Project

## Introduction

In April 2002, Edmonton Public Schools initiated a three-year French Language Renewal Project to implement the recommendations of the review of French immersion and French as a second languages (FSL) programs. The expected results of this project include:

- Increased enrolments;
- Enhanced student achievement;
- Increased student contact with francophone communities; and
- Partnerships with agencies interested in the learning of French.

The Project will be guided by a broad-based Advisory Committee with representatives from Edmonton Public Schools Central Services and district schools, Alberta Learning, Canadian Parents for French, Department of Canadian Heritage, Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Alliance française, Faculté Saint-Jean, University of Alberta, Grant MacEwan College, and La Chambre économique de l'Alberta.

## Project Vision

### 1. INCREASED STUDENT ENROLMENT

**Approximately 40% of district students will be enrolled in French immersion and FSL programs by 2007.**

The district's goal is to increase the enrolment in French immersion and in FSL programs by 100% by 2007: to 4,000 students in French immersion and to 27,500 students in FSL programs.

### 2. DISTINGUISHED STUDENT RESULTS

**Student Results Meet National and International Standards**

Edmonton Public School District students will attain levels of French language proficiency and cultural understanding that reflect provincial programs of study, national and international guidelines. These guidelines have been developed by such agencies as the Public Service Commission of Canada, the Council of Europe and the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

### 3. EFFECTIVE PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

**The Edmonton Public Schools French immersion and FSL programs will continue to develop effective program characteristics.**

- Positive district support
- Positive principal support

- Competent, enthusiastic teachers
- Positive community support
- Integral part of regular program
- Sufficient instructional time
- Clear and relevant curricular expectations
- Students engage in interactive learning
- Quality learning resources
- Well-articulated programs
- Professional development
- Promotion and marketing
- Student access, support and recognition
- Financial support

## Project Goals and Strategies

### 1. FORMATION OF PARTNERSHIPS

- **Goal:** to strengthen French language programs by creating partnerships with local, provincial and federal agencies/institutions interested in French language learning.
- **Strategy:** creation of broad-based Advisory Committee.

### 2. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- **Goal:** to encourage the learning of French within the district.
- **Strategy:** development of French language policies, regulations and implementation procedures.

### 3. ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAMS WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES

- **Goal:** to align program goals with national and international guidelines/assessment guidelines.
- **Strategy:** research, development, validation and alignment of district programs with national and international guidelines.

### 4. PROGRAM ARTICULATION IN FSL

- **Goal:** To develop an articulated/continuous FSL program from elementary to senior high school.
- **Strategy:** standardization of FSL programs at the elementary, junior high and senior high school levels.

### 5. INCREASE OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME FOR FSL

- **Goal:** to increase instructional time in French.
- **Strategy:** examination of different organizations for instruction and preparation of sample timetables; development and validation of guidelines and scenarios.

6. **UPDATING OF LEARNING RESOURCES**
  - **Goal:** to enhance the availability of quality learning resources in the French Immersion (FIM) and FSL programs.
  - **Strategy:** identification and selection of quality learning resources for FIM and FSL programs.
7. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
  - **Goal:** to meet professional development needs of FIM and FSL teachers.
  - **Strategy:** development and implementation of a professional development plan.
8. **STUDENT ENROLMENTS**
  - **Goal:** to increase student enrolments in FSL and French immersion programs.
  - **Strategy:** implementation of a marketing-communication plan.
9. **FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITIES**
  - **Goal:** to increase student contact with francophone communities.
  - **Strategy:** identification and implementation of activities to increase student contact with francophone communities.
10. **RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS**
  - **Goal:** to recognize graduating students for their achievements in French immersion and FSL programs.
  - **Strategy:** identification and implementation of incentives and programs to recognize students.
11. **STAFF RECOGNITION**
  - **Goal:** to recognize FIM and FSL teachers, administrators and support personnel.
  - **Strategy:** identification and implementation of incentives and programs to recognize staff.
12. **ADDITIONAL FUNDING**
  - **Goal:** to obtain additional funds for French immersion and FSL programs.
  - **Strategy:** identification of funding programs and application for funding to provincial, federal and private agencies.
13. **SUPPORTING THE TEACHER IN THE CLASSROOM**
  - **Goal:** to enhance consulting services to schools offering FIM and FSL programs (pilot for the three-year project term).
  - **Strategy:** provision of access to one full-time consultant for FIM and to one full-time consultant for FSL, with bilingual support staff.
14. **DEVELOPMENT/ADAPTATION/TRANSLATION OF RESOURCES AND SUPPORT DOCUMENTS**
  - **Goal:** to develop/adapt/translate learning resources and other needed documents/ services for FIM programs.
  - **Strategy:** creation of collaborative development and implementation projects with neighboring school districts.
15. **REVIEW OF FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM OFFERINGS**
  - **Goal:** to enhance the program offerings in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 FIM program.
  - **Strategy:** increase course offerings in senior high school and explore the feasibility of a late immersion program.
16. **SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS**
  - **Goal:** to investigate how specialist services for students with special learning needs can be enhanced in FIM.
  - **Strategy:** review existing special needs services in FIM and recommend improvements.
17. **ASSESSMENT**
  - **Goal:** to enhance achievement and assessment practices in French language programs.
  - **Strategy:** design and administration of assessment tools in French: "Highest Level of Achievement Test" (HLAT) in French and tests for FSL at the Grades 12, 9 and 6 levels.

### Project Evaluation

The district will assess project progress on an annual basis using document analysis, questionnaires, and interviews. Each goal and strategy will include performance indicators and measures.

#### Contact Information

For more information about the French Language Renewal Project, visit the EPSB website: <http://french.epsb.ca>

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