



Education, Citizenship and Youth

Bureau de l'éducation française Division

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TO: Superintendents of School Divisions (French Immersion Program)
French Immersion Program Consultants/Coordinators of School Divisions
Principals of French Immersion Schools (Senior Years)
Presidents of Advisory Councils for School Leadership/Parent Councils (Grades 9 to 12 Schools)
Association manitobaine des directrices et directeurs d'écoles d'immersion
Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba
Canadian Parents for French
Council of School Leaders
Manitoba Association of Parent Councils
Manitoba Association of School Superintendents
Manitoba Association of School Trustees
Manitoba Teachers' Society

Dear Colleagues:

Subject: French Immersion Program Senior Years Graduation Requirements for 2009-2010 and beyond

Last fall, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth (MECY), through its Bureau de l'éducation française Division, consulted partners to obtain feedback on issues stemming from changes in the Senior Years graduation requirements as they relate to the French Immersion Program. A report summarizing the feedback provided by stakeholders is available on the Department's Website at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/policy/grad_require.html.

The Department has considered this feedback in order to arrive at a decision pertaining to the Senior Years French Immersion Program. The intensity of French instruction and distribution of credits earned from courses taught in the French language at the Senior Years levels will not change. **For the 2009-2010 school year and beyond, students will be required to earn a minimum of 14 credits from courses taught in French out of a total of 30 credits in order to obtain the Department-issued Senior Years French Immersion Program diploma.** A minimum of 4 credits are to be earned in each of Grades 9 and 10 and a minimum of 3 credits are to be earned in each of Grades 11 and 12.

This policy position means that there will be no mandatory increase in the number of credits to be earned from courses taught in French for graduation from a French Immersion Program. A minimum of 14 credits from courses taught in French out of a total of 28 credits is required for graduation in 2007-2008, at least 14 of 29 credits in 2008-2009, and a minimum of 14 of 30 credits in 2009-2010 and beyond.

It is understood that schools are encouraged to offer more courses for credit taught in French. Research and experience have demonstrated that student proficiency in French strongly correlates with the amount of quality time spent learning and using the language.

School divisions, schools and parents have shown a great deal of dedication and interest in French Immersion education and this has resulted in strong French Immersion education for students throughout the Province. The Department will continue to collaborate with schools in order to support and enhance French Immersion programming in Manitoba.

Sincerely,

Original copy signed by Jean-Vianney Auclair

Jean-Vianney Auclair

Assistant Deputy Minister

- c. Jacques Dorge, Interim Director, Curriculum Development and Implementation Branch
Gilbert Michaud, Special Projects, Curriculum Development and Implementation Branch