

# IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

## VALIDATION OF STUDENTS' LINGUISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Key Area	VALIDATION OF STUDENTS' LINGUISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE	
Factor	<b>FOCUS ON FRENCH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION</b>	
	The French Immersion Program is, first and foremost, a language program where students actively develop their linguistic competencies in French through all subject areas, extra-curricular activities, and social interactions. This systematic focus on language is necessary so that students continually develop language accuracy and proficiency, thus building and strengthening their confidence and engagement.	
	SUCCESS INDICATORS	RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES
	<b>Integrate language and content instruction in all K–12 subject areas</b>	Teachers in all subject areas should be aware of the dual task of actively teaching aspects of language while teaching content and using various pedagogical approaches that support second language acquisition, such as the integrated approach. Therefore, all K–12 French immersion teachers are responsible for the development of the French linguistic competencies of students while also delivering the curricula in each subject area.
<b>Ensure students' ongoing development of French language and perception of bilingualism</b>	Educators need to support students in understanding that the path of language acquisition is an ongoing process. Such an awareness allows learners to build their confidence in taking risks and to develop a positive and realistic attitude toward their language learning. In order for learners to perceive themselves as bilingual/plurilingual, teachers must support students in understanding that being proficient in French does not necessarily mean mastering the language to the same degree as a native speaker.	
<b>Provide opportunities for students to reflect on their language proficiency and growth</b>	Students should be called upon to reflect on their learning in all subject areas in order to improve their language skills; teachers should engage students in discussions and reflections to progressively increase their language proficiency and build their linguistic perseverance. As students become conscious of their progress, they develop their sense of identity as plurilingual learners.	
Factor	<b>ENRICHED SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
	Enriching a school environment means creating authentic and meaningful academic, cultural and social activities for students that can take place in the classroom, school, and the larger community. This enrichment is vital to support academic learning and to validate students' language acquisition and their identity as participants in the Francophone community and as plurilingual learners.	
	SUCCESS INDICATORS	RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES
	<b>Provide activities to enrich academic learning in all subject areas</b>	Teachers should provide meaningful, ongoing, and relevant enrichment activities in all subject areas in order to foster students' French language acquisition and deepen their learning within curricular areas. These activities can occur in the classroom, school, and community.
<b>Provide opportunities for authentic French use through cultural, social, citizenship, and transition activities</b>	Enriched educational learning experiences go beyond academic learning and include cultural, social, citizenship, and transition activities that are continuously integrated in all grade levels and occur in the classroom, school, and community. Educators need to understand how these types of activities contribute to the development of the French language and of students' plurilingual identities, and to share this understanding with their students. Schools must ensure that these activities are purposefully integrated on a continuous basis throughout school life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cultural and social activities</b> establish an authentic context in which students practise and purposefully use their linguistic competencies to communicate.</li> <li>• <b>Citizenship activities</b> enable students to connect with the surrounding community and offer them an opportunity to develop their identity as plurilingual members of society.</li> <li>• <b>Transition activities</b> invite students to reflect upon continuing their education in French between schools and between grade levels, thereby encouraging them to embrace the next steps on their pathway of language acquisition and global citizenship.</li> </ul>	
Factor	<b>IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING</b>	
	The success of the French Immersion Program requires that all program expected outcomes be addressed consistently and become part of daily practice in all subject areas and extra-curricular activities. A conscious focus on these outcomes will support students towards achieving academic success, improving engagement and motivation, and nurturing their identities as plurilingual learners and speakers.	
	SUCCESS INDICATORS	RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES
	<b>Incorporate program expected outcomes in all subject areas</b>	The following seven program expected outcomes must be targeted in all subject areas and all other school and extra-curricular activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop language proficiency</li> <li>• develop confidence in French language skills</li> <li>• engage in learning and using French</li> <li>• motivate participation in the Francophone community</li> <li>• develop identity as a plurilingual learner and speaker</li> <li>• discover and experience different aspects of <i>la Francophonie</i></li> <li>• develop intercultural competencies</li> </ul>
<b>Incorporate program expected outcomes in school and extra-curricular activities</b>	Schools should work towards a better understanding of each expected outcome, and reflect on the validity, frequency, and types of activities offered inside and outside the classroom that directly target the outcomes in order to support student achievement and growth. To assess student achievement and growth, educators should assess the impact of these activities with students by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• having conversations and discussions</li> <li>• sharing feedback</li> <li>• participating in surveys</li> <li>• using portfolios, self-evaluations, and reflections</li> </ul>	
Factor	<b>VALUING AND ENCOURAGING THE LEARNING OF LANGUAGES</b>	
	In a successful French Immersion Program, language learning is valued and encouraged. Students' personal growth as language learners needs to be recognized and celebrated by everyone in their immediate environment in order for them to feel validated for having chosen this path. To build confidence in French and take responsibility for learning and living in both languages, students need to be engaged in their language learning experience. It is important for them to have a personal connection to these languages and to see these languages as being relevant to their lives.	
	SUCCESS INDICATORS	RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES
	<b>Develop student engagement and responsibility for French language learning</b>	Schools must provide opportunities for students to become conscious of their choices when speaking and living in two or more languages. Schools must guide students to understand that learning French is a lifelong endeavour that contributes to transforming their thinking and how they interact with the world, thereby influencing the development of their identity as plurilingual learners. To do this, schools must provide regular opportunities for students to reflect on their language learning, set personal language learning goals, and reflect on their progress.
<b>Develop students' plurilingual identity as lifelong learners and speakers</b>	It is also necessary to give students frequent opportunities to reflect on their French immersion experience as a whole and its impact on who they are as individuals and how it contributes to their evolving identities. When schools engage in these metacognitive processes with students, it allows them to take responsibility for their learning and progress.	
<b>Guide parents to support and validate their child's bilingual experience</b>	Students' language learning experience needs to be validated and nurtured by family, peers, and the school community. Parents play a crucial role in this validation. Schools should guide and support parents at all grade levels—for example, providing them with information and guiding them to become active participants in their child's learning.	
<b>Celebrate student achievement in French</b>	In order for students to feel validated for having chosen this path, students' personal growth as language learners needs to be recognized and celebrated by everyone in their immediate environment including peers, family, and the school community. To do this, schools should seek opportunities for students to demonstrate and showcase their achievement and abilities in French so that they are visible within the school and the community. These opportunities allow students to reinvest their language learning, gain confidence, and see the relevance of French in their lives in a context other than the classroom.	