School Initiatives to Further Develop the French Immersion Program in 2016-2017

The table below summarizes the key initiatives (maximum of 5) implemented by schools in 2016-2017. The initiatives are organized according to the four key areas of the questionnaire.

Section 1 – Creating a French Immersion Setting (54)
Exposure to the French Language (8)
• Increase the percentage of French Language instruction time (2)
• Increase the number of French Immersion credits offered at SY levels (1)
• Survey students' interest to determine optional courses to be offered (2)
• Increase cultural exposure (2)
• Full-time Kindergarten (1)
Educational Staff (3)
• Increase bilingual staff in all positions (3)
Linguistically Rich Environment (42)
• Increase visibility of French language in schools (assemblies in French, articles in French in school newspapers, make all announcements bilingual, display student work, bilingual bulletin boards, etc.) (10)
• Increase French signage around schools (9)
• Encourage staff members to speak French at all times (3)
• Encourage students to speak French during non-instructional time (12)
• Create a French Immersion area within a dual-track school (6)
• Increase the amount of French heard by students inside and outside the school during non-instructional time (1)
• Purchase subject-specific French resources appropriate for all learners (1)
Inclusion and Appropriate Support for All (1)
• Create inclusive classrooms for all learners (1)

Section 2 - Validation of Students Linguistic and Educational Experience (66)
Focus on French Language Acquisition (17)
• Improve students' French oral language in all subject areas (11)
o Create significant, relevant learning situations in which students can practice, develop and improve their French language skills through interactions with subject area content
o Increase usage of French during instructional time
• Develop and incorporate second language methodology in classrooms (the Integrated Approach integrating language and content) (6)
o Provide ongoing corrective feedback that enables students to develop their language repertoire, better understand subject matter content and express themselves correctly
o Create a climate of risk-taking in which making mistakes is viewed positively as a learning tool
• Use assessment tools that authentically and specifically assess language competencies
• Engage students in discussion around French language acquisition (metacognition) to improve proficiency
Enriched School Environment (17)
• Enrich academic learning through innovative and meaningful activities (8)
o Invited guests, workshops, presentation, field trips, projects, use of media
o Expose students to a variety of French language models and accents

- Provide a variety of cultural and social and citizenship experiences to complement students' language learning and extend their intercultural knowledge through classroom, school and community-based activities (9)

- Expose students to French language opportunities available (Explore program, post-secondary education, exchanges, etc.)

Impact on Student Learning (15)
- Support the development of student confidence and engagement in learning and speaking French (9)
  o Create various school and extracurricular activities that support language development and nurture their intrinsic motivation to speak French
  o Provide opportunities to interact with French speakers (students, seniors, members of the Francophone community, members of virtual spaces etc.)
  o Enable student participation in a variety of activities in the Francophone community
  o Guide students to use French outside of school for academic and personal use
  o Introduce students to the various aspects of the Francophone world they can integrate into their lives

- Improve students' numeracy skills and their ability to communicate in French their understanding of math concepts (1)
  o Use a variety of tools to assess students' mathematical skills
  o Encourage the use of different strategies and tools to engage students
  o Encourage students to communicate their mathematical thinking
  o Use data to drive teaching and set goals in developing number sense skills for students

- Improve students' reading and writing skills in French (5)
  o Ensure accessibility to a wide variety of French texts at each level
  o Use a wide variety of tools to assess student reading and writing
  o Use a variety of strategies to support students in their reading and writing abilities (Reading Apprenticeship, Daily 5, *Club de lecture*, cross-grade buddy reading, journal writing, writing corrector)
  o Implement a cross-curricular reading and writing continuum
  o Offer parent literacy sessions to provide strategies and supports for families to support their learners

Valuing and Encouraging the Learning of Languages (18)
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their language learning and the development of their proficiency in French (6)
  o Develop students' intrinsic motivation to speak French
  o Have students set personal goals for language use (student self-assessment, goal setting, reflective portfolio)

- Develop students' plurilingual identity as lifelong learners and speakers (12)
  o Students' identity is constructed by exploring through curriculum different perspectives and ways to view the world
  o Provide opportunities for students to reflect on their experience in French Immersion
  o Discuss the relevance of French in their lives today and in the future
  o Discuss how their identity has been shaped and has evolved as a result of being in French Immersion

- Guide parents as to how to play an active role in supporting and validating their child's French Immersion experience

Section 3 – Educational Staff and Professional Learning (48)

Recruitment of Staff (3)
- Hiring practices ensure teachers have the appropriate qualifications
- Hiring practices ensure administrators have the appropriate qualifications to lead a French Immersion school (1)
- Employ a range of strategies to recruit qualified personnel through recruitment fairs, universities and various advertising tools (2)

Retention of Staff
- Support for new teachers (mentorship, new teacher workshops, observations, French language courses)
- Support for new and experienced administrators (French Immersion administrator meetings, mentorship)

Professional Learning - Building Teacher Capacity (45)
- Educators meet regularly to discuss topics and research specific to French Immersion (5)
  - vision, *French Immersion in Manitoba: A Handbook for School Leaders*, pd opportunities, availability of cultural experiences, etc.
- Establish networking and planning opportunities for teachers to enhance their professional practice (17)
- Provide opportunities for teachers to attend professional learning sessions pertaining to French Immersion and to various subject areas (18)
  - literacy, numeracy, methodology, assessment practices, language acquisition
- Encourage and support ongoing development of language skills (5)

Section 4 – Student Enrolment Trends (15)

Visibility and Communication (2)
- Promote the French Immersion Program through open house, parent information sessions, divisional and school websites, newsletters, partnership with CPF-MB, etc. (1)
- Ongoing communication with parents from K to 12 on various topics to support student success and retention
  - Discuss with students and parents the value of developing one's linguistic and intercultural competencies and that being plurilingual is a viable option in today's society
- Invite parents to participate in organized French cultural school events (1)

Entry Points and Transition (6)
- Offer parents school visits and information sessions at transition points (3)
- Offer students school visits and information sessions at transition points (1)
- Offer students opportunities to reflect and discuss with others the importance of learning French and remaining in the French Immersion Program (2)
- Expand the French Immersion Program by adding middle or late immersion in the school

Retention of Students (7)
- Monitor students' enrolment and attrition in French Immersion Program (4)
- Monitor the number of French Immersion graduates
- Ensure appropriate supports are in place when students struggle academically (1)
- Review timetabling at the high school to provide more flexibility for French Immersion Program students (2)
- Establish a procedure for students considering leaving the Program