



French Immersion Programs on Prince Edward Island

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What French Immersion programs are available on Prince Edward Island?

There are 3 options:

1. **Early French Immersion:** Begins in Kindergarten and goes to Grade 12. French Immersion students achieve the same curriculum outcomes as students registered in the English Program however their language of learning and of instruction is in French:

Kindergarten – Grade 3: Minimum of 90% of instruction is in French

Grades 4-6: With the introduction of English Language Arts, time in French is 65%

Grades 7-9: A minimum of 50 % in French

Grades 10-12: 25% in French

14 Island schools have an **Early** French Immersion program: Tignish, St. Louis, Bloomfield, Elm Street, Parkside, Greenfield, Westwood, Eliot River, Sherwood, Spring Park, West Kent, Glen Stewart, Stratford, and Montague Consolidated

2. **Mid French Immersion:** Instruction begins in Grade One in a Core French setting (30 minutes per day) followed by implementation of French Immersion at Grade 4. From Grades 4-6, 75% of instruction is in French. At the intermediate and senior high, students receive the same amount of instruction in French as the Early Immersion students.

1 Island school has a **Mid** French Immersion program: Gulf Shore

3. **Late French Immersion:** Begins in Grade 7. The program has similar outcomes to the English program in French Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts. In grades 7-8, 80% of instruction is in French. In Grade 9, 50 % of instruction is in French. In Grade 10-12, 25% of instruction is in French. Students are integrated with Early French Immersion students in Grade 10.

5 Island schools have a Late French Immersion program: Kensington Intermediate- Senior High school, Queen Charlotte, Stonepark, East Wiltshire and Birchwood

2. What is the goal of the Early French Immersion Program?

To enable students to become functionally bilingual in French and English by the end of Grade 12, that is:

- To be able and willing to participate easily in conversation in French
- To be able to pursue post-secondary education appropriate to their abilities and interests with French as the language of instruction
- To be able to accept employment where French is the language of work
- To enable students to gain an understanding and appreciation of Francophone cultures

3. What are the benefits of choosing Early French Immersion for my child?

There are many reasons to choose Early French Immersion. Research suggests that exposure to one or more languages is an excellent way to flex brain muscles, boost confidence, increase literacy skills and brain development. Research also shows that the majority of children have no problem learning French. The skills learned in the French Program transfer to the English Program.

Choosing the Early entry point is the parents' decision. Mid and Late entry points could be a joint decision making process between the parents and the child.

4. Should I choose French Immersion for my child?

French Immersion is open to any student who wishes to enroll. The following is a list of characteristics demonstrated by contented French Immersion students:

- *Is verbal and likes to talk*
- *Imitates easily*
- *Is confident*
- *Is a risk taker*
- *Enjoys new challenges*

If you are struggling with the decision, contact your school to speak with the Principal or contact the Department of Education. It is important to look at each child individually. What may seem like the appropriate decision for one sibling may be a different decision for another.

5. Where do I register my child?

You can register your child at your designated French Immersion school.

There are School attendance zones within the Public Schools Branch which identify where children in Immersion Programs will attend school. ([See French Immersion Schools and Attendance Zones](#))

6. When do I register my child?

Registration will occur at the end of November. Registering early helps the Public Schools Branch to plan for your child as effectively as possible. ([See French Immersion Registration](#) for more details)

7. Is there bussing for my child if I don't live in the catchment area?

Yes, transportation for a student in French Immersion is provided to the Zoned French Immersion School within their family of schools, where a bus route exists.

(For more information, see the Public Schools Branch Operational Policy: https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/408_French_Immersion.pdf)

8. How many students on Prince Edward Island are in French Immersion Programs?

Approximately 25% of Island students are in French Immersion Programs.

9. How can I support my child in French Immersion?

Even if you don't speak French, you can play an active role in your child's success in French Immersion. Research shows that students whose parents have positive attitudes to learning French tend to do better in French.

- *Learn as much as you can about the French Immersion Program*
- *Encourage your child and show an interest in what he/she is learning*
- *Find ways to expose your child to French language and to use it outside of school: Borrow books from the French library, listen to French music, watch French T.V. and visit French communities*
- *Continue to read stories aloud (in French if you can and/or in English)*
- *Sing songs, nursery rhymes, poems: put emphasis on similarities and differences in sounds (in French if you can and/or in English)*
- *Celebrate and encourage your child's attempts to communicate and encourage them to talk in French*

10. Where can I get more information?

For more information:

- *Contact your designated French Immersion school. Information meetings are usually held for parents in late November.*
- **Check out the following websites:**

Public Schools Branch: <https://edu.princeedwardisland.ca/psb/>

Canadian Parents for French (CPF): www.cpfpei.ca

The department of Education, Early Learning and Culture:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/education-early-learning-and-culture>