

Danforth C&TI - French Immersion Program

Question & Answer

French Review - Board Decisions

For contextual Information on the French Review, please visit the [French Review and Upcoming Changes to French Programs page](#).

The Junior Extended French program (Grade 4 entry) will be phased out entirely as the Middle French Immersion program (Grade 4 entry) begins.

- Students who begin the Grade 4 Junior Extended French (JEF) in September 2020 will be able to complete Grade 8 in Extended French.
- There will be no new Grade 9 Extended French in September 2025.
- Students who complete the Grade 8 Junior Extended French program in June of 2025 and who are interested in a continuation of the French program will be accommodated in the French Immersion program in Grade 9 in September 2025.

Q#1: What is the difference between Early French Immersion (EFI) and the Middle French Immersion (MFI) in Toronto District School Board (TDSB)?

- Early French Immersion begins in Junior Kindergarten and the Middle French Immersion begins in Grade 4.
- Both programs are considered Intensive French programs where students develop their proficiency in French by studying French language as well as other subjects taught in French.
- Both the Early French Immersion and the Middle French Immersion programs are designed for families who do not speak French at home.

Q#2: Will the Middle French Immersion students blend with the Early French Immersion students?

- Yes, the students who entered the Grade 4 Middle Immersion program were always meant to blend with the students from Early Immersion in Grade 9 French Immersion, and **not before**.
- The two programs blend in Grade 9 as one French Immersion program in secondary as both programs in elementary are distinctive based on subjects taught, exposure and entry points.
- Each allowing for the required number of French instructional hours to be achieved before entering Grade 9.
- This information can be found on the French Review page, on a Fact Sheet – Middle French Immersion at the bottom right hand side of the page, please visit the [French Review and Upcoming Changes to French Programs page](#).

Danforth C&TI - French Immersion Program Question & Answer

Q#3: What is the current pathway and feeders for Riverdale CI?

	Entry School	Middle School	Secondary School	Graduating Year
JEF*	Chester ES	Westwood MS	Riverdale CI	June 2024
	Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS	Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS		
	Dundas Jr PS	Queen Alexandra Sr PS		
	Wilkinson Jr PS	Earl Grey Sr PS		
*Note: There will be no new Grade 9 Extended French in September 2025.				
*JEF	Chester ES	Westwood MS	TBD	June 2025
	Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS	Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS		
	Dundas Jr PS	Queen Alexandra Sr PS		
	Wilkinson Jr PS	Earl Grey Sr PS		
*Note: The final cohort of the Extended French program, who will begin Grade 9 in September 2025, will be accommodated in the Early French Immersion program, as per Board decision 2019. Moving forward, all secondary students will be French Immersion.				

Q#4: What are the pathway changes?

The schools that are included in the pathway change are:

Last cohort that began Grade 4 Junior Extended French program (currently in Grade 7) and all subsequent Middle French Immersion cohorts:

- Chester ES → Westwood MS
- Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS
- Dundas Jr PS → Queen Alexandra Sr PS
- Wilkinson Jr PS → Earl Grey Sr PS

Q#5: What are the new pathways?

Danforth C&TI - French Immersion Program Question & Answer

	Entry School	Middle School	Secondary School	Beginning Year
JEF*	Chester ES	Westwood MS	Danforth C&TI	September 2025
	Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS	Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS		
	Dundas Jr PS	Queen Alexandra Sr PS		
	Wilkinson Jr PS	Earl Grey Sr Ps		
MFI	Chester ES	Westwood MS	Danforth C&TI	September 2026
	Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS	Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS		
	Dundas Jr PS	Queen Alexandra Sr PS		
	Wilkinson Jr PS	Earl Grey Sr Ps		
*Note: The final cohort of the Extended French program, who will begin Grade 9 in September 2025, will be accommodated in the Early French Immersion program, as per Board decision 2019. Moving forward, all secondary students will be French Immersion.				

Q#6: My child is in Junior Extended French currently in Grade 8 and will begin Grade 9 in September 2024. Will this pathway change impact them?

- No, their pathway will remain Riverdale CI.
- Junior Extended Extended refers to students who began Extended French in Grade 4.
- They will be permitted to complete the Extended French program at Riverdale CI.

Q#7: Why will the Junior Extended French students entering Grade 9 in September 2024 remain on the pathway to Riverdale CI?

- Danforth C&TI will open with French Immersion only in 2025.
- These students will remain on the pathway to Riverdale CI as the Extended French program will phase out of Riverdale CI.

Danforth C&TI - French Immersion Program Question & Answer

Q#8: My child is in the Early French Immersion program at Earl Grey Sr PS, Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS or Queen Alexandra Sr PS. Will this pathway change impact them?

- No, their pathway will remain Malvern CI at this time.
- Early French Immersion refers to students who began French Immersion in Kindergarten.
- However, please note there is an **UPCOMING** study in the LTPAS that has been identified for the relocation of French programming from Riverdale CI into Danforth C&TI, including elementary French pathways to secondary schools in the broader area, including East York CI, Leaside HS and Malvern CI.
- This review will also explore elementary and middle school pathways within this group of schools. ***However, no discussions have yet taken place, and therefore no decisions have been made.***

Q#9: My child is currently in Junior Extended French currently in Grade 7, and will begin Grade 9 in September 2025. Will this pathway change impact them?

- Yes. Students who began the Grade 4 Junior Extended French in September 2020 will be able to complete Grade 8 in Extended French.
- **There will be no new Grade 9 Extended French in September 2025.**
- Students who complete the Grade 8 Junior Extended French program in June of 2025 and who are interested in a continuation of the French program will be accommodated in the French Immersion program in Grade 9 in September 2025.
- These students may continue in French Immersion at Danforth C&TI.

Q#10: My child is currently in the Middle French Immersion at Earl Grey Sr PS, Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS, Queen Alexandra Sr PS or Westwood MS. Will this pathway change impact them?

- Yes. These students may continue in French Immersion at Danforth C&TI.
- Middle French Immersion refers to students who began French Immersion in Grade 4.
- All subsequent cohorts will follow the same pathway.

Q#11: What about curriculum and programming for French Immersion at Danforth C&TI?

- The French Immersion program will be very similar to the program at all TDSB secondary French Immersion schools.

Danforth C&TI - French Immersion Program

Question & Answer

- Students in the French Immersion program are taught based on the same curriculum documents that they would be in the English program except that the language of instruction is French.
- The only curriculum especially for French Immersion students is the French as a Second Language curriculum.
- In secondary French Immersion programs, subjects taught in French will vary from school to school depending on the qualifications of the staff of the school and the identified learning interests and needs of students.

Q#12: What support will be in place for these students who begin Grade 9 Immersion in September 2025?

- It is important to remember that the language acquisition for students has been progressing right from the start of the Junior Extended French program.
- The key support will come in Grade 9 when the teaching staff will receive students from the different program backgrounds in the FIF (French Language) class and will employ the range of differentiated instruction strategies that are in the repertoire of all teachers to support students.
- There are many Grade 9 Extended teachers with years of experience who are already differentiating for students from the Grade 7 Entry EF and the Grade 4 Entry EF as they have always blended once they begin high school, and as we know the instructional hours for both these programs are also different.
- Additionally, as students from an Extended French background will be in an Immersion program, they will be permitted to pursue either the certificate of bilingual studies in French Immersion or the certificate of bilingual studies in Extended French.

Q#13: What support will be in place for educators ahead of receiving the students in September 2025?

- Professional learning for staff will be offered focussing on differentiated instruction in order to accommodate classes of students that have both Immersion/Extended.
- The professional learning plan will include targeted meetings/support with Grade 9 French Immersion teachers ahead of the arrival of the blended cohort to discuss differentiation strategies and the continued support of students from different French program backgrounds.
- We also have many instances where French Immersion and Extended French courses have blended in secondary (i.e. Civics, Careers, Arts, French Language). Staff will certainly capitalize on this experience and expertise as well as the sharing of best practices and pedagogy.

Danforth C&TI - French Immersion Program

Question & Answer

Q#14: Will the Sibling Rule apply for students with siblings in the French program at Riverdale CI?

- As the Extended French program is completely phasing out of Riverdale CI, there will be no opportunity for younger sibling access as of 2025 and beyond.

Q#15: Can an older sibling from Riverdale CI attend Danforth C&TI French Immersion?

- Danforth C&TI will begin with only Grade 9 French Immersion in 2025, and roll up a grade each year, therefore there is no opportunity for older sibling(s).

Q#16: What do students in French Immersion achieve at the completion of their studies in secondary French Immersion?

- **TDSB Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French Immersion** - Students who successfully complete the French Immersion program are eligible for the Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French Immersion.
- To receive their certificate, students must have completed the FOUR (4) French courses of the program (Grades 9 to 12). The six (6) remaining credits may be completed at any level in other subjects offered where French is the language of instruction.

Q#17: What do students in Extended French achieve at the completion of their studies in secondary Extended French?

- **TDSB Certificate of Bilingual Studies in Extended French** - Students who successfully complete the Extended French program are eligible for the Certificate of Bilingual Studies in Extended French.
- To receive their certificate, students must have completed the FOUR (4) French courses of the program (Grades 9 to 12). The three (3) remaining credits may be completed at any level in other subjects offered where French is the language of instruction.

Q#18: How do I attend another French Immersion school if I do not wish to attend Danforth C&TI?

- If a student wishes to attend a French Immersion program at a school other than the one designated for their home address, the parents/guardians/caregivers may apply via the Out-of-Area Admissions procedure prior to the deadline.
- For information regarding the Out-of-Area Admissions procedure, including forms, please visit the [Out-of-Area Admissions](#) page.

Danforth C&TI - French Immersion Program

Question & Answer

- Please follow the process as indicated within the timelines specified on the online application.
- There is no guarantee of placement via the Out-of-Area Admissions procedure. No transportation is provided.

Q#19: What happens if my child opts to not continue with French Immersion at secondary?

- Your child returns to their English designated secondary school by address.

Q#20: Is transportation provided for secondary French Immersion students?

- As per the [Transportation of Students Policy P020](#), Transportation (TTC) is not provided for Grade 9 to 12 French Immersion and Extended French programs.