

Frequently Asked Question

Secondary French Programs Admissions

Core French Programs at Secondary

Q1: What are the French programs available at the secondary level?

The TDSB offers the continuation of French programming at the secondary level:

- Core French
- French Immersion

Q2: What is Core French?

Core French is the mandatory program for all Ontario students who are in English programs. This program begins in Grade 4 and is offered through elementary school to Grade 8. It offers one period of French instruction per day. There is one compulsory secondary credit for students in Ontario to receive their secondary school diploma, usually taken in Grade 9, however Core French is available in most schools to the end of Grade 12.

Q3: Why does my child need to take Core French?

Core French is mandatory in Ontario from Grades 4 to 8 for all students in English-language elementary schools. Students must obtain at least one credit in French at the secondary level. That credit is usually taken in Grade 9.

Q4: What are the options for students in the Core French Program in Grades 9-12?

Secondary Core French Grades 9-12

- The TDSB offers Academic and Open courses for Grades 9 and 10.
- University Preparation and Open courses are offered for Grades 11 and 12.
- An open course (FSF10) for beginners is also available as an option for students with fewer than 600 hours by the end of Grade 8 or to students who have recently arrived without prior experience or exposure to French.

Q5: Do I need to take Core French in high school?

Yes. All students must complete 1 credit in French at the secondary level to complete the requirements of the Ontario Secondary Schools Diploma. Usually, this credit is taken in Grade 9.

An open course (FSF10) for beginners is also available as an option for students with fewer than 600 hours by the end of Grade 8 or to students who have recently arrived without prior experience or exposure to French. Many schools offer Core French through Grade 12.

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Q6: Can I substitute anything for the Core French credit?

Students may take an Ojibwe credit at the secondary level in place of Core French and that will satisfy the requirement for the Ontario Secondary Schools Diploma (OSSD).

Q7: Our family is Francophone. My child is in the English program. Does my child still need to take Core French?

By virtue of enrolling in an English Language School Board and in the regular program, you are accepting that your child will be part of the Core French program, which is mandatory for all students in Ontario from Grades 4-8 as well as one credit at the secondary level. This credit is usually taken in Grade 9.

Q8: We just moved here from another country. Does my child need to take Core French?

At the elementary level, Core French is mandatory for all students from Grades 4-8 and students must obtain at least one credit in French at the secondary level. That credit is usually taken in Grade 9.

Depending on the time of arrival, accommodations will be made in order to integrate the child into the program.

An open course (FSF1O) for beginners is also available as an option for students with fewer than 600 hours by the end of Grade 8 or to students who have recently arrived without prior experience or exposure to French. Many schools offer Core French through Grade 12.

Intensive French Programs at Secondary

Q1: What is an Intensive French Program?

Early French Immersion (JK) and the Middle French Immersion (Grade 4) are the two system-wide “Intensive” French programs. In both these programs, students develop their proficiency in French by studying French language as well as other subjects taught in French. Both of these programs are designed for families who do not speak French at home. For more information, please see the [French Language Program](#) page.

Q2: Can I apply to enter an Intensive French Program through Out-of-Area Admissions?

No. Applicants must apply to enter Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion at the designated system entry points (i.e., Junior Kindergarten or Grade 4) as outlined on the page

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[French Programs](#). Once registered and enrolled, you can apply to attend a French Language program school other than your pathway school through Out-of-Area Admissions process.

***Note:** The Extended French Program is currently phasing out. The system entry point for Grade 4 is the Middle French Immersion.

Q2: Can I begin French Immersion (Extended French*) in Grade 9?

No. Students who will continue French Immersion (or Extended French*) secondary school began in either Junior Kindergarten, Grade 4. There is no entry to French Immersion (or Extended French*) at Grade 9.

Students who complete the elementary French Immersion program through Grade 8 may choose to continue that program at the designated pathway school for French Immersion, based on their home address.

***Note:** The Extended French Program is currently phasing out.

The Junior Extended French program (Grade 4 entry) will be phased out entirely.

- 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, **except** in the case where a new secondary French Immersion program opening may have occurred.
- For contextual Information on the French Review, please visit the [French Review and Upcoming Changes to French Programs page](#).

Q3: How would you continue in French Immersion if your home school does not have French Immersion? Do you have to apply?

Every address has a “home school” for French Immersion. The school may be different from the home school for English. It is considered the same sort of address association. If your child is attending that school, there is no need to apply to the pathway secondary school, unless you have moved outside the address association.

Q4: If my child is already in a French Immersion program, do they have to apply for the secondary program their school feeds to or is it automatic?

If your child is attending the French Immersion program school that serves your principal

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residential home address, they will flow to the next school on the pathway. Your current school will aid with this process.

Q5: How do I determine my French Immersion (Extended French*) secondary school?

Every elementary French Immersion (Extended French*) school has a designated pathway school for secondary. [Pathways French Language Programs](#)

Please note that some secondary schools are currently phasing out the Extended French Program. Please visit the [Secondary French Programs](#) page.

Q6: My child is currently attending a French Immersion program in a TDSB school, and we have moved. Can he/she/they transfer to a new school?

Yes, if a child is already attending a French Immersion program in TDSB and the family moves to another TDSB school with a French Immersion program, the child may transfer to the new area school regardless of space constraints subject to proof of residency within the French Immersion catchment as per [Operational Procedure PR518 - Admission Eligibility Requirements](#).

Certificates for French Language Programs

Q1: What do students receive upon completion of their studies in secondary French Language Programs?

The TDSB offers a certificate to all students who successfully complete the Core French, Extended French* and French Immersion programs. Below you will find the descriptions of those certificates.

- Core French: Students who complete all 4 credits (Grades 9-12) in Core French qualify for a Certificate of Achievement in Core French. Most secondary schools offer Core French through Grade 12. Students who complete all 4 FSF (Core French) credits receive the Certificate of Achievement in Core French with their Ontario Secondary Schools Diploma.
- Extended French: To qualify for the Certificate of Bilingual Studies (Extended French) students must complete 7 credits in French (4 credits in Extended French and 3 credits in subject courses where French is the language of instruction). Students completing 8 or more credits in French qualify for an Honours Certificate of Bilingual Studies (Extended French).
- French Immersion: To qualify for the Certificate of Bilingual Studies (French Immersion) students must complete 10 credits in French (4 credits in French Immersion and 6

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credits in subject courses where French is the language of instruction). Students completing 11 or more credits in French qualify for an Honours Certificate of Bilingual Studies (French Immersion).

Out-of-Area Admissions and Intensive French Programs

Q1: Can I apply to enter an Intensive French Program through Out-of-Area Admissions?

No. Applicants must apply to enter Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion at the designated system entry points (i.e., Junior Kindergarten or Grade 4) as outlined on the page [French Programs](#). You can apply to attend a French Language program school other than your pathway school through Out-of-Area Admissions.

Q2: Can I choose a different secondary school than the one associated with my home address for French Immersion (Extended French*)?

- If you wish to attend a French Immersion program (Extended French*) at a secondary school that is not the one associated with your principal residential home address, you will need to apply via the [Out-of-Area Admissions](#) process within the appropriate timelines.
- Please note the timelines of the Out-of-Area Admissions process. To learn more about the Out-of-Area Admissions application, submission dates and timelines, please visit:
 - [Elementary Out-of-Area Admissions website](#)
 - [Secondary Out-of-Area Admissions website](#)
- Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability.
- If admitted, transportation is not provided.

Q3: What if I am at my elementary French Immersion program as an Out-of-Area (formerly Optional Attendance) student?

If the French Immersion program school you are attending in Grade 8 is not your home French Immersion program school by address, you will continue at the French Immersion program for the secondary school for your home address.

If you wish to attend a French Immersion secondary school that is not the one associated with your home address, you will need to apply via the [Out-of-Area Admissions](#) process within the timelines of that process.

Q4: How do I know if I am an Out-of-Area (formerly optional attendance) student in elementary?

If you have changed principal residential home address since your initial placement in French Immersion (Extended French*), you would have been allowed to complete the grade range of your French Immersion (Extended*) French program school but would be considered

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“Out-of-Area” to that pathway and you **must** revert to your home school by address at the transition.

If you applied to your French Immersion (Extended French*) school via the Out-of-Area (formerly Optional Attendance) process in the first place, you are attending your school as an Out-of-Area student. You may complete the French Immersion grade range of that school but then **must** revert to your home school by address at each transition.

Alternatively, you may apply to another secondary school via [Out-of-Area Admissions](#) within the timelines of the application. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability.