

JK Entry to Early French Immersion

Toronto District School Board

Why Junior Kindergarten (JK) entry?

- In the French Review, Spring 2018 (P.53), 68% of parents/guardians indicated a preference for Kindergarten entry to Early French Immersion (EFI).
- The Junior Kindergarten entry point allows for flexibility in the school organizational model (i.e. JK/SK may be a possibility), and also allows for increased program viability, while minimizing the impact of additional staffing.
- JK entry to EFI will simplify school entry for families who want EFI as they do not have to change schools at SK.
- Biases may influence recommendations made by staff as to who should or should not participate in intensive French programs; equity of access will be improved by eliminating the influence of these biases.

How does it benefit students?

- Students will have more time to develop oral language skills in the target language that will enable them to succeed in the subject areas.
- Retention will improve as students will have more time to develop receptive language skills ahead of more formal assessments.
- The earlier the better for students who are experiencing academic difficulties because...
 - ◆ there are lower cognitive demands in earlier starting programs;
 - ◆ there is a better fit between the language level of the learner and the complexity of the language of the subject content areas;
 - ◆ there are socio-affective variables that help with risk-taking and willingness to communicate.

What does the research say?

- In earlier starting programs students can succeed in French Immersion to the same level as in English. At all levels, it is critical to provide scaffolding and other support to struggling learners. (Bruck, 1979; Wiss, 1987; Genesee, 2007)
- Dicks and Kristmanson (2008) conclude that four variables affect language acquisition: *age of entry*, degree of intensity of language instruction, total cumulative time spent immersed in the language, and pedagogical approach.
- Students in FI achieve advanced proficiency in French as well as mastery of school content (Science, Social Studies, Math, etc.) equivalent to similar students studying this content in English.” (Wesche, 2002)
- Data showed that students enrolled in French Immersion programs outperformed their counterparts in non-immersion programs in reading performance.
- Even though a child’s first language may not be a societal language, children can successfully learn an additional language, such as French, while learning English as a second language simultaneously. (O’Brien, 2017)



French as a Second Language

What Families Need to Know

Application Process & Timelines

- Families make application to Early French Immersion online.
- Please visit the following link: www.tdsb.on.ca/pars

Important Dates:

The application program opens on **November 1, 2021.**

Deadline for online applications is **November 26, 2021.**

Application Process & Timelines

Note:

For entry in September 2022 only, children who will be entering JK or SK are eligible to apply for Early French Immersion. Moving forward (2023), the only entry point for Early French Immersion will be Junior Kindergarten.

- This means that parents/caregivers may apply for students born in both 2017 and 2018 to begin in September 2022.
- September 2023 and onward, the entry point will be Junior Kindergarten.

How to Apply Online

Interested families submit an online application during the application period in November at:

www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Application-Process/PARS

Additional information can be found in the [Early French Immersion flyers](#), available in 22 languages.

The screenshot shows the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Find Your School, New to Canada, Policies, Media, About Us, Staff, Employment, Leadership, and Contact Us. Below this is a search bar with the text "ENHANCED BY Google" and a "Translate" button. The main navigation menu includes: Home, Early Years, Elementary School, High School, Adult Learners, Parents, and Community. The "Elementary School" section is expanded, showing a list of links: School Choices, Transportation, Optional Attendance, Elementary Alternatives, Elementary Academies, Arts-Based Schools, Home Schooling, French Programs, Why Learn French?, French as a Second Language (FSL) Programs, Core French, Application Process, Early French Immersion, Middle French Immersion, and PARS. The "Application Process" link is highlighted with a blue arrow. The "Early French Immersion" link is also highlighted with a blue arrow. The "Middle French Immersion" link is highlighted with a blue arrow. The "PARS" link is highlighted with a blue arrow. The main content area is titled "Program Application & Registration System". It contains a "Please Note" section stating that admission to the Early French Immersion (JK entry) or Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 entry) programs is guaranteed at the entry points to all eligible on-time applicants, but admission to a specific school is NOT guaranteed. It also states that applications to begin these programs are open to all students not already enrolled in an FSL program. Below this, it says "For entry in September 2022 only, children who will be entering JK or SK are eligible to apply for Early French Immersion." At the bottom, there are two green buttons: "Proceed to Apply" and "Proceed to Accept Placement". A blue arrow points to the "Proceed to Apply" button.

tdsb
Toronto District School Board

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Elementary School

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 - French as a Second Language (FSL) Programs
 - Core French
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 - Early French Immersion
 - Middle French Immersion
 - PARS

Program Application & Registration System

Please Note: While admission to the Early French Immersion (JK entry) or Middle French Immersion (Grade 4 entry) programs is guaranteed at the entry points to all eligible on-time applicants, admission to a specific school is NOT guaranteed. Applications to begin these programs is open to all students not already enrolled in an FSL program.

For entry in September 2022 only, children who will be entering JK or SK are eligible to apply for Early French Immersion.

Online applications for Early French Immersion and Middle French Immersion.

→ Proceed to Apply

→ Proceed to Accept Placement

Application Process & Timelines Continued

Please also note that:

- An offer of placement in Early French Immersion is guaranteed to all eligible on-time applicants, however placement in a particular school is **NOT** guaranteed.
- While every effort is made to place students in the school identified as their area French Immersion school, this not always possible. **Students may be redirected to another school with available program space.**
- Offers of placement are made based on the child's primary home address of record at the time of application.
- It is an entirely online process. All communication will be sent via the email address provided. Please check email regularly, including junk mail folders.

Additional Information and FAQ can be found at the following link: [Application Process](#).

