

French–Language Schools

Welcome New Students

Are you new to Ontario? Here is information to help you understand the French-language school system in Ontario.

Learning French benefits students

Students have many advantages when they speak more than one language. Learning another language helps students:

- strengthen their problem-solving, reasoning and creative thinking skills
- develop their understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures
- increase their prospects in an increasingly global job market.

Learning French helps students to understand Canada's history and to develop an appreciation of French culture.

How French is taught in Ontario schools

Within Ontario's publicly funded education system, students can learn French either as a:

- first language through a French-language school or
- second language at an English-language school.

At French-language schools, all subjects in the Ontario curriculum are taught in French. Schools are expected to provide students with a solid foundation in Francophone culture.

At English-language schools, students are taught French as a subject. In French immersion programs, students are taught French as a subject and French

is the language of instruction in two or more other subjects.

Who is eligible to attend a French-language school?

In Ontario, access to French-language education is guaranteed for children whose parents are Canadian citizens and have the right to minority-language education under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. These parents are considered rights holders.

A rights holder is a Canadian citizen who:

- lives in Ontario and whose first language is French; or
- has received his or her education at the elementary level in a French-language school in Canada; or
- is the parent of a child who has received education in a French-language school in Canada.

If you are not a rights holder, you can still apply to send your child to a French-language school. French-language schools encourage applications from families that are new to Ontario.

How to apply to French-language schools

To send your child to a French-language school, you must:

- identify the French-language school that best meets your needs
- submit an application to the school's principal.

Students who are 19 or older can submit the application on their own.

Students whose parents are rights holders are automatically admitted. Students whose parents are not rights holders will have their applications considered by the school board's admission committee.

If you are not a rights holder, the school board can tell you how to submit an application and what documents you need to provide. These usually include:

- proof of your child's age
- proof of where you or your child live
- your child's academic record
- your child's immunization record.

The school board admission committee may also ask for additional information. For example, they may ask you to complete a questionnaire about the use of French at home and the languages that you speak and write.

In cases where the required documents are not available, your school board should offer an alternative. The school board can ask you or your child (if they are 19 or older) for a sworn or affirmed statement that provides the information requested and explains why the required documents are unavailable.

Admission policies and criteria

Each French-language school board sets its own admission policies that clearly explain how applications are processed and how the results will be documented and communicated. Admission criteria for non-rights holders are focussed on assessing each family's capacity to support their child's success in a French-language school environment. Criteria could include:

- the student's level of fluency in French
- the student's interest in learning French
- the parents' commitment to support the student's academic development in French.

How parents and students will learn about the school's decision

The admission committee can tell applicants about its decision, but written confirmation must follow. The notice of confirmation should outline the reasons for their decision.

The admission committee must document its decision and ensure that the related documentation is available to parents and students to review. Some school boards may have a process for reviewing decisions and this review process should be clearly explained in their policies.

How to find a French-language school or school board

The School Information Finder is an online tool that lets you search for any publicly funded school in Ontario by postal code, town/city, school name or school board. Find a school or a school board in Ontario at: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sbinfo/

Alternatively, you can use the French-language schools search tool: <http://www.elfontario.ca/en/find-an-institution.html> available on the French-language education in Ontario website: http://www.elfontario.ca/index_en.html

Learn more about French-language education

Read more about French-language education in Ontario at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/>

Read more details about the policies and guidelines governing admission to French-language schools:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/Admission.pdf>

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/l48.html>

Questions?

For more information, you may contact the nearest school or school board through <http://www.elfontario.ca/en/contacts.html>

Available in 8 languages at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/

English

Français

French

عربي

Arabic

Kreyol

Creole

Español

Spanish

Lingala

Lingala

Kiswahili

Swahili

Tiếng Việt

Vietnamese