

French-language Schools

Open Doors to New Students

New admission policies

Ontario's francophone population has changed and we have responded with new guidelines for French-language school boards. School boards are adapting their admission policies to become more clear and streamlined and to make French-language schools more welcoming.

Who is affected by these changes?

1. French-speaking newcomers
2. Newcomers who speak neither French nor English
3. Children whose grandparents' first language is French.

When will new admission policies be in place?

New policies will be in place by January 15, 2010.

French-language education and French immersion

French-language education is different from French immersion

At a French-language school, all subjects in the Ontario curriculum are taught in French and schools are expected to enhance students' understanding of French culture. French immersion is for children who wish to learn French as a second language, in either a public or Catholic English-language school.

How to apply to French-language schools

Parents who wish to send their child to a French-language school must submit an application to the school's principal. If the student is an adult, he or she can personally submit the application.

Each school board will have its own admission policy. Schools will be able to explain how to submit an application and what documents are needed.

Student documents

Documents required will likely include:

- proof of the student's age
- proof of the place of residence of the student or parent(s)
- the student's academic record
- the student's immunization record
- any other document that may be useful in processing the application, such as a questionnaire to collect information on the use of French at home and on languages spoken and written by the parent(s).

In cases where the required documents are not available, the school should offer an alternative. In such cases, the school board could ask the parent(s) or adult student to provide a sworn or affirmed statement providing the information requested and explaining why the documents in question are unavailable.

Admission criteria

School boards' admission policies should clearly explain how student applications are processed and should include the following information:

- the criteria, including the weighting that will be used to determine whether the student may be admitted. These may include:
 - the student's level of competence in French
 - the student's interest in learning French
 - the extent of the use of French and/or the presence of aspects of French culture in the family home
 - the importance that the student's parent(s) attach to the language and culture of the French-speaking community
 - parent commitment to support the student's academic development in French.
- the purpose, content and organization of the interview
- how long it will take for the admission committee to process an application and make a decision
- how much authority the admission committee has over whether or not to admit a student.

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

Admission policies should explain how the committee's decisions will be communicated.

- the committee may tell the parent(s) who submitted the application about its decision, but written confirmation must follow. The notice of confirmation should outline any grounds for rejection, if applicable.
- the admission committee must document its decision and ensure that the related documentation is available.

Some school boards may wish to set up a process for reviewing decisions. If so, it is important that the process be clearly explained in their policies.

Learn more about...

French-language education

Read more about French-language education in Ontario at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/linguistique/guide/index.html

Read more details about the policies governing admission to French-language schools www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/148.html

How to find a 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. You can also search by address using the postal code tab.

If you are searching for a French-language school, the postal code search is recommended.

www.ontario.ca/findschools

Find a school board in Ontario at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sbinfo/

Questions?

For more information, please call toll free at 1-800-387-5514 or, if calling from Toronto, 416-325-2929.