HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CDSB

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

French Immersion (Grade 1) and Extended French (Grade 5) Programs

1. Is the optional French program suitable for my child?

Parents should meet with their child's teacher and/or principal to determine suitability of the program. Questions parents might ask, include:

- *How is my son or daughter progressing in their literacy skills?*
- *How is my son or daughter progressing in their learning skills?*
- *Does my son or daughter want to be in the program?*

Consider your child's strengths, interests, needs and personality in your decision-making!

Transportation

2. Will my child be transported to the optional French program site?

As French Immersion and Extended French are regional programs, classes may be located outside of the home school area. Transportation will be provided for students meeting the Board's eligibility requirements as per Board Policy II-24 Home to School Transportation. Students living more than 1.6 kilometers from the Extended French or French Immersion regional site are eligible for transportation to the assigned school offering the optional French Program.

3. Will my other child(ren) be granted transportation to the optional French program site even though they are not in the program?

a. Transportation is not provided to cross-boundary students. If a sibling is granted cross-boundary permission, s/he must apply for a courtesy seat on the bus through https://www.haltonbus.ca/, which is also subject to approval. It should be noted that each year, the siblings must re-apply: there is no guarantee from year to year.

b. *Please refer to the section entitled "Cross-boundary Attendance" for more information.

4. Where can I access information about my child's bus route, pick-up time, etc.?

Parents are welcome to visit the Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) website at the beginning of the school year for transportation information and student bus schedules.

Please visit: https://www.haltonbus.ca/ and review Policy II-24 Home to School Transportation for more details.

Program Eligibility

5. Who is eligible to register in the optional French program?

a. For the French Immersion program, students living in the Halton Region and entering Grade 1 in September are eligible to register.

b. For the Extended French program, students living in the Halton Region and entering Grade 5 in September are eligible to register.

6. If I register my child at a school that offers French Immersion or Extended French, will my son or daughter be guaranteed a place in the program?

Registering your child at an optional French program site does not guarantee registration into the optional French program. Space in these programs vary from year to year and are subject to a separate registration process.

7. I don't live in the area but I am planning to move near the school site to accommodate my child attending the optional French program. Are we eligible to register?

Parents indicating that they are moving to the area must show proof of address by the beginning of the school year or a spot in the program will be forfeited.

Transferring Schools (Cross Boundary Attendance)

8. Can my child attend an optional French program with cross-boundary permission?

Parents or guardians may apply to have their child attend an HCDSB school other than their designated home school. The process of transferring schools within the HCDSB is referred to as the **Cross Boundary School Attendance process**.

Parents have the option of submitting a cross-boundary request, however, these requests are subject to approval on a yearly basis.

9. How do I apply for cross-boundary school attendance for my child?

a. To request for cross boundary school attendance for your child, please review Policy I-04 Cross Boundary and Non-Resident Student School Attendance.

b. Please contact an HCDSB school for further information.

10. What about cross-boundary for siblings? Can my other child(ren) attend a school if one (1) of my children is in Early French or Extended French?

Enrolment in French Immersion or Extended French does not guarantee that siblings can attend the same school. It is possible to have one sibling attending one school while another sibling attends a different school. Parents have the option of submitting a cross-boundary request, however, these requests are subject to approval and annual review.

Schools that are deemed "closed" will not accept cross boundary registrations for siblings of students enrolled in optional French programs.

Transportation is not provided to cross-boundary students. If a sibling is granted cross-boundary permission, s/he must apply for a courtesy seat on the bus through https://www.haltonbus.ca/, which is also subject to approval. It should be noted that each year, siblings must re-apply for a courtesy seat on the bus; there is no guarantee from year to year.

Late Entry and Exit of the Program

11. What happens if my child does not get in to the Extended French (Grade 5) program?

If the random selection (lottery) process determines that your child does not have a spot in the Extended French program to which you applied, your child will be placed on a wait list. Your child's number on the wait list will also be determined by the random selection (lottery) process.

If other families choose to decline a spot for their child in the Extended French program, families on the wait list will be contacted, in the order of their number on the wait list. The wait list will be maintained until the end of September, at which point enrolment in the class will be closed and no further applicants will be accepted.

12. My child's application to the program was unsuccessful. Can my child join the program after the school year is already underway, or in a future year?

Once a class is closed, no new applicants will be accepted for the duration of the school year. Students without the required French experience may not join a French Immersion or Extended French class in subsequent years after the program has begun.

13. What happens if my child wants to leave the program?

a. It is common for students to want to leave an optional French program, due to a variety of reasons including, but not limited to: the challenge of learning in a new language, "homesickness" from friends and routines in their former school, as well as the adjustment to new routines and expectations. It is important to engage your child's teacher in dialogue as soon as you notice this, as your child's teacher will be able to suggest strategies and methods to help ease your child's transition into French Immersion or Extended French.

b. If you decide that your child will leave the optional French program, please be aware that leaving mid-year is discouraged based on curriculum coverage, adaptation to routine, and other logistical factors. It is strongly encouraged that students complete their year of study before leaving an optional French program.

c. It should be noted that students who leave the program must return to their school of previous enrollment.

d. Please be advised that once a student has left an optional French program, the space in the program is forfeited and the student may not rejoin the program in the future.

14. Can siblings attend the same school if my child is enrolled in an optional French program?

Enrolment in an optional French program (French Immersion or Extended French) **does not** guarantee that siblings can attend the same school. It is possible to have one sibling attending one school while another sibling attends a different school. Parents have the option of submitting a cross-boundary request, however, these requests are subject to approval and annual review.