

# French Immersion

## Questions & Answers



## CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH SASKATCHEWAN

Providing opportunities for young Canadians to learn and use the French language

***French immersion programs are designed to create students who are functionally bilingual. This means graduates are able to communicate effectively in French as well as in English.***

**Why should I choose French immersion for my children?** Graduates of a full immersion program can expect increased appreciation of other languages and cultures, enhanced career potential, and a key to learning other languages as well as a more global view of Canada and the world.

**Is French immersion for everyone?** Immersion is suitable for children of all academic abilities. French immersion may present an additional challenge to your child but it is not to be confused with enrichment. It is a program developed for the specific purpose of giving Anglophone school children the opportunity to become bilingual, while still maintaining their English skills. The immersion method was created for children whose classroom language is not their first language. If you have any specific concerns, talk to a teacher in an immersion program near you or call CPF - SK at 1-800-561-6151 or (306) 244-6151 from Saskatoon or outside Saskatchewan.

**Will my children learn the same things as their peers in the English program?** Both programs follow the guidelines of Saskatchewan Learning. The French-language curriculum is the same as the English-language curriculum. Only the language of instruction is different.

**When is English introduced?** In Saskatchewan English is introduced by grade three. Some school divisions choose to introduce it earlier. Students are exposed to one period a day of English language arts. Within a year or two, they should be reading in both languages. Skills in one language can be transferred to benefit the development of the other.

**What if my child needs extra help or an extra challenge?** Not all schools offer remedial or enrichment activities in French, although many schools do have resource teachers who are bilingual. CPF encourages school divisions to provide similar support services in both languages. A child with learning difficulties should not have to leave the program to get help or enrichment.

**How can I help if I don't speak French?** Your encouragement and belief in the value of a second language will strengthen your child's learning experience. CPF can supply a book called "Yes, you can Help!" Call our office for information on ordering a copy. We also have a "French for Parents" program. Ask your teacher and/or your CPF chapter to offer a class. You can also ask about out-of-school French-language activities you could take your child to or that you could help organize.

**How competent are graduates in French?** They are able to take post-secondary courses in French, attend French-speaking post-secondary institutions, and use French in the workplace. In short, graduates are functionally bilingual. The extent of their competence depends on individual ability, motivation and exposure to the language. Their level of competence will be greater if they study more than just the language in French. They should use French as the language of instruction in as many subjects as possible.

**Why should students stay in immersion until they graduate?** While it is true that students communicate well in French by the time they reach junior high, they need the senior high school years to give them a broader vocabulary, more complex constructions, and greater familiarity with the social usages of the language. The longer they continue to learn in the French language and the more subjects that they take in French, the more fluent they will become.

**How available is French immersion?** Various locations in Saskatchewan have immersion programs. The following numbers will connect you to school divisions that offer programs in the locations listed. If your community is not listed below, call CPF-SK at 1-800-561-6151 to inquire about starting a program or obtaining grants to bus your child to the nearest available program.

Estevan	842-7025
Melville	783-8787
Yorkton	783-8787
Gravelbourg	694-1200
Swift Current	778-9200
Meadow Lake	236-5614
Moose Jaw Catholic	694-5333
Moose Jaw Public	532-3000
Regina Catholic	791-7200
Regina Public	791-8200
Saskatoon Public	683-8200
Saskatoon Catholic	659-7000
Prince Albert Catholic	953-7500
Prince Albert Public	764-1571
Lloydminster	(780) 808-8585
North Battleford	445-6158
Debden	764-1571
La Ronge	425-3302
White City	949-3366

**What do French immersion graduates have to show for their efforts?** In Saskatchewan, students who have completed 50% of their high school credits in French will have a special notice on their transcripts. Individual boards of education can then grant a bilingual diploma to these graduates. All post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan accept Français 30 as one of the two language arts courses required for admission. Advance credit in French is accepted by many universities.

**Do immersion students studying subjects such as mathematics or science in French do as well as would be expected if they were taught these subjects in English?**

Immersion students have been tested using standardized tests of mathematics (at all grade levels) and science (from about grade five on), and their performance has been compared to that of students in English only programs. The tests were administered in English, even though students were taught the subjects in French, because parents wanted to be assured that their children would be able to deal with mathematical and scientific concepts in English. The results showed that, whether in mathematics or science, the immersion students did as well as their English-instructed comparison groups.

**What about continuing French at the post-secondary level?** In Saskatchewan, the University of Regina offers the Baccalauréat en éducation program for students wishing to pursue a career as a French teacher. The Institut français at the University of Regina also coordinates a range of courses taught in French. The University of Saskatchewan offers undergraduate and graduate courses in French language and literature. The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan cooperate to provide bursaries for qualified students who wish to study in French at institutions in Saskatchewan as well as in other provinces.

**Does French immersion work?** After 30 years of growth and development, French immersion is one of the most studied programs ever introduced into Canadian schools. The majority of the research results have been positive. As a result, the immersion method has been adopted by other countries. Each year, thousands of students across Canada graduate with excellent skills in both languages. Many of these graduates have also said that they would enrol their own children in French immersion.

Success in learning a second language depends on the attitude and ability of the individual, the excellence of the program provided in the schools, and to a large extent the supportive attitude of the parents. Students who have completed a full program of studies in French and who have participated in extra-curricular and program enrichment activities will graduate speaking French with ease and fluency.

**French immersion is a Canadian innovation in second-language learning – proven successful and internationally acclaimed** *"[It] is not simply another successful language teaching program – it may be the most successful program ever recorded. No program has ever been as thoroughly studied and documented, and no program, to my knowledge, has ever done so well."* Dr. Stephen Krashen - Professor of Applied Linguistics, University of Southern California.



**What is Canadian Parents for French?** Canadian Parents for French is the Canada-wide volunteer network of thousands of individuals and families interested in creating and promoting French-second-language learning opportunities for young people. The majority of our members are non-francophones who wish to provide their children with opportunities for learning French that they themselves did not have. Nationally, provincially, and locally, our volunteers and staff work very hard to organize extra-curricular events in French for immersion, core French, and intensive French students. We provide support and information to parents and educators in order to have the highest quality French programs possible available to children everywhere in Canada.

Membership in CPF is open to anyone over the age of 18 years who supports our goals. In Saskatchewan there are chapters in various communities. Contact our provincial office for information on how to reach your local representative or on how you can form a chapter in your community.

**Canadian Parents for French Saskatchewan**

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7K 2B1

(306) 244-6151 or 1-800-561-6151  
Fax: (306) 244-8872

e-mail: cpfsask@sasktel.net  
**www.cpfsask.com**

**Individual or Family membership Form**

CPF allows one or two adults (over 18) per family as voting members. For organisational membership information please see Associate Member brochure.

New Membership:  
Individual  Family   
 Renewal: Membership no. \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
email: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Division \_\_\_\_\_  
School(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Local CPF Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ *65% of your membership fee supports the activities of your local chapter,*  
One Year (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ *25% supports CPF's work at the branch level, and*  
Three year (\$60) \_\_\_\_\_ *10% goes to CPF national to partially cover processing costs*  
Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

Donations to CPF – SK are welcomed and appreciated. Thank you for your support. (CPF – SK Charitable Tax #106865231RR0001)  
Payment by  Cheque enclosed  
 Visa  Mastercard  
Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: **CPF-SK**  
**Suite 303, 115 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N.**  
**Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1**

*Occasionally the CPF membership list will be made available to other groups/agencies to offer members' benefits or education-related information. Use of the list will be carefully regulated and only permitted under a contract specifying confidentiality and one time authorization. If you do not wish to receive mailings other than directly from CPF please check this box.*