

French Education in Alberta

Reference (available in 2013): <http://education.alberta.ca/parents/educationsys/frenchlanguage.aspx>

Alberta Education encourages opportunities for all Alberta students to learn French and for francophone students to study in their first language.

Francophone Education

Francophone education is intended for children of parents who meet the criteria of Section 23 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. These parents have the right to have their children receive primary and secondary school instruction in French.

Alberta Education develops the Program of Studies in French for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students in Francophone programs. All courses, except for English language arts, are offered entirely in French.

This program has been designed to help students identify with and be part of the Francophone culture and community. It is offered in 35 schools across the province, including one distance learning center, by five francophone regional authorities.

Readers are encouraged to visit the Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta website for further information.

French Immersion

French immersion programs are intended for students whose first language is not French. Students will be functionally fluent in French and develop an appreciation of the French language and francophone cultures. This program prepares students to pursue postsecondary education in French.

Students are usually introduced to early immersion in Kindergarten or Grade 1. Late immersion is typically introduced at the Grade 7 level. French is used as the language of instruction in many subject areas for a significant part of each school day.

Readers are encouraged to access "*Yes, you can help!*", an online Alberta Education resource designed to provide parents of French immersion students with clear and complete information about French immersion programming. Also, the Canadian Parents for French (Alberta Branch) website offers valuable information about French as a second language and French immersion programs.

French as a second language

French as a second language (FSL) courses are intended for students whose first language is not French. Students will develop a good foundation in French and an appreciation of the French language and francophone cultures.

Students are usually introduced to French as a second language in Grade 4 or Grade 10. In this program, French is taught as a subject, usually from 30 to 40 minutes a day in elementary and junior high school and 125 hours in senior high school. The majority of school jurisdictions in Alberta offer FSL courses.