

French Education in Alberta

Reference: <https://education.alberta.ca/french-language-education-in-alberta/french-language-education-general-info/>

Alberta Education recognizes that English and French are the official languages of Canada. Canadian citizens belonging to the Francophone minority in Alberta have the right to have their children educated in Francophone schools according to section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and section 10 of the *School Act*.

As French is one of Canada's two official languages, learning French is considered important to enhance opportunities for living and working throughout Canada and in the world, as well as to foster a greater understanding between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians. Alberta Education encourages opportunities for all Alberta students to learn French by making available alternative French language programs such as French immersion and French as a Second Language courses.

French First Language

Parents who have rights under section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* may have their child educated in a Francophone school in Alberta. Alberta Education develops the curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students in Francophone programs. All courses, except 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 41 schools across the province, as well as a distance education centre, by four Francophone regional authorities.

French Immersion

French immersion programs are intended for students whose first language is not French. Students learn to communicate in French and develop an appreciation for the French language and culture. This program prepares students for post-secondary education in French.

Students are usually introduced to early immersion in Kindergarten or Grade 1, and late immersion is typically introduced in Grade 7. French is used as the language of instruction in many subjects for a significant part of each school day. More than 200 schools in Alberta offer French immersion programs.

French as a Second Language (FSL)

French as a Second Language courses are intended for students whose first language is not French. Students will learn basic French as well as develop an appreciation of the French language and culture.

Students generally begin FSL courses in Grades 4 or 10. In this program, French is taught as a subject, usually from 30 to 40 minutes per day in elementary and junior high, and 125 hours in senior high.