

French Immersion

FAQS FOR FAMILIES



NO ONE AT HOME SPEAKS FRENCH. IS THIS PROGRAM FOR US?



Red Deer Public Schools French Immersion program is designed for students whose first language is not French. Parents do not need to speak French in order to enroll their children in French Immersion - most parents have limited or no French language skills.



ARE THERE BENEFITS TO KNOWING A SECOND LANGUAGE?



There are many research-supported advantages to learning another language. Here are just a few:

- Positive impact on thinking skills, like problem-solving and multitasking.
- Stronger spelling and reading comprehension.
- Increased understanding of and respect for other people, languages, and cultures.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD START FRENCH IMMERSION?

Students generally enter the program in **Kindergarten or Grade 1**. At Red Deer Public Schools, we have an early immersion program that establishes the foundations of the French language in the first few grades of school. Early enrolment in this program provides the best opportunity for success.



Red Deer Public also offers a late French Immersion program, which begins in Grade 6.

WHEN WILL MY CHILD START ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS? WILL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS SUFFER IN FRENCH IMMERSION?



Your child will receive formal English language arts instruction in **Grade 3**. Students' English language skills **will not** suffer in French Immersion. Your child will be taught reading skills in French. These skills will transfer from reading in French to reading in English. Many children will be reading in English before Grade 3. While children may experience a brief lag in English reading and writing, French Immersion students normally 'catch up' to their peers in the English program by the end of Grade 5. Learning a second language, in fact, supports first language learning.

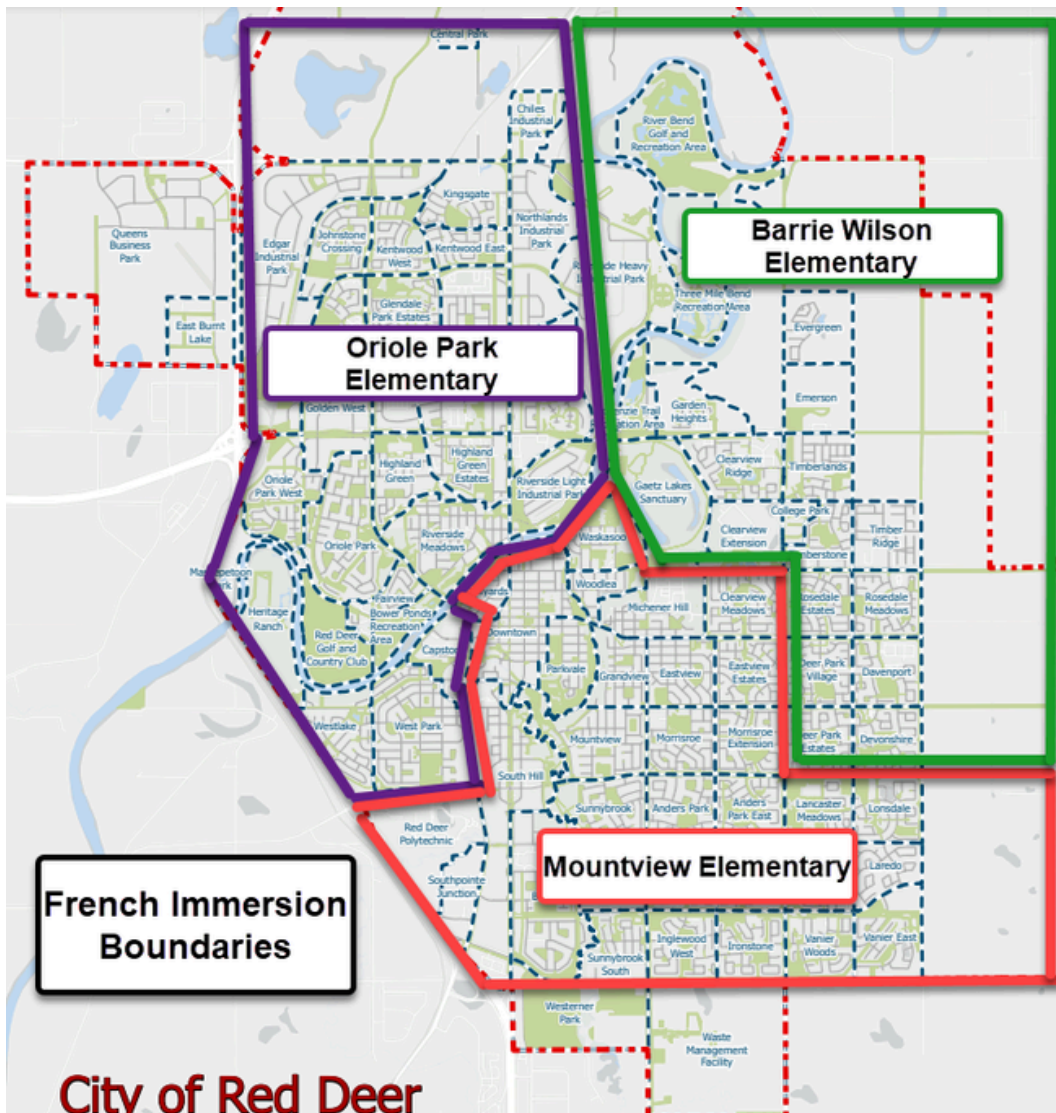


OUR FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH, CAN I REGISTER MY CHILD IN FRENCH IMMERSION?

✓ Yes Children have the ability to learn multiple languages at the same time. When formal English language arts instruction begins in Grade 3, English as an Additional Language (EAL) support may be available, if deemed necessary at the time.

IF I DON'T LIVE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, CAN MY CHILD TAKE THE BUS TO SCHOOL?

✓ Yes Free busing **may** be available for students leaving their neighbourhood to attend the French Immersion school that serves their neighbourhood. Check out the map below, or visit the French Immersion page on Red Deer Public Schools website, to see which school provides French Immersion programming in your neighbourhood.



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