

PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

The FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE NINE-YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDIES GUIDE TO IMPLEMENTATION—GRADE 10 TO GRADE 12 is intended to assist teachers, consultants and administrators in implementing the 2004 FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE NINE-YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDIES (GRADE 4 TO GRADE 12). It is a **supporting** document that is offered as a starting point for planning and teaching the high school course sequence (French 10–9Y; French 20–9Y and French 30–9Y).

CONTENT OF THE GUIDE

This guide consists of three sections: nine chapters, 25 appendices and one suggested lesson series for each course in the high school sequence.

The guide provides information and suggestions for a range of topics, including:

- ▶ implementation of the program of studies
- ▶ planning for instruction to meet the needs of all learners
- ▶ instructional techniques and strategies
- ▶ the use of technology to support second language learning
- ▶ classroom assessment.

Chapter 1 provides a brief introduction to this document, to the benefits of learning a second language as well as to the context for language learning in Alberta. **Chapter 2** follows with an explanation of the design of the Nine-year Program of Studies. Appendices A to E support the content of this chapter. In **Chapter 3**, considerations related to the implementation of the program of studies are listed, and these are supported by Appendices F, G and H. **Chapter 4** addresses the teaching of FSL at the high school level; Appendices I to K provide further information. In **Chapter 5**, the focus is on various types of models and on planning for instruction. Appendices L to P provide additional tools and materials. **Chapter 6** provides suggestions for instructional techniques and strategies related to the components of the entire program of studies. This chapter is supported by Appendices Q, R and S. The goal of meeting the needs of all students is addressed in **Chapter 7** and is followed up by various tools related to differentiating instruction in Appendix T. Examples of graphic organizers for students with varying learning needs can be accessed in Appendix S. **Chapter 8** is devoted to the topic of classroom assessment and is accompanied by

Appendix U. **Chapter 9** addresses various technologies that can be used to support and enhance second language learning and teaching. Appendices V to X provide additional information.

A glossary of terms used in this guide is provided in **Appendix Y**.

Related documents

The FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE NINE-YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDIES (GRADE 4 TO GRADE 12) is the **primary** reference document and can be accessed at <http://education.alberta.ca/media/677897/nine_year.pdf>. It provides an articulated program for grades 4 to 12 and prescribes what students are to learn and be able to do by the end of each grade and course at the high school level. A copy of the French version of the program of studies is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/media/677902/nine_yearfr.pdf>.

Alberta Education has a Web site that includes a listing of various materials in support of the FSL program of studies. It can be accessed at <<http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/compl/fsl/support/niney.aspx>>.

BENEFITS OF LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

The Government of Alberta believes that language learning provides students with the competitive edge needed to succeed in the global economy. Research findings indicate that the experience of learning a second language can enhance many aspects of learning, including:

- ▶ improved overall school performance
- ▶ improved verbal and nonverbal intelligence, divergent thinking and memory and listening skills
- ▶ improved first language communication skills
- ▶ a deeper understanding of one's own culture and the development of positive attitudes towards cultural diversity
- ▶ improved ability to learn additional languages.

The goal for language learning in Alberta schools is to have students communicate and interact in two or more languages. The benefits of knowing another language include:

- ▶ a life-long ability to communicate with more people
- ▶ access to a larger pool of information and broader educational and career opportunities
- ▶ more opportunities to enjoy literature, art, music, theatre, movies, sports and travel.

Use of French worldwide

The choice of French as a language of study is a jurisdictional one, but it is often the language of choice as it is Canada's other official language. It is widely used and accessible throughout Canada and is the first language of 6.7 million Canadians (Statistics Canada, 2001). It is spoken by approximately 200 million people in 55 countries around the world (*Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*). It is also an official language of the European Economic Community, the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee. After English, French is spoken on more continents than any other language.

LANGUAGE LEARNING IN ALBERTA

Alberta Education has compiled a number of resources that can be used by teachers and school authorities to promote the study of second languages. These can be accessed at the following Web site:
<<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/learnlang.aspx>>.

Learning French has long been considered important to the education of Alberta students, both as a way of enhancing our graduates' opportunities for living and working throughout Canada and the world, and as a means of fostering greater understanding between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians.

Alberta students who are linguistically and culturally competent in French can work toward the promotion of cultural understanding and respect for diversity by breaking down cultural barriers and fostering good will and mutual respect. They can also use the intercultural skills they have developed through the learning of French to enhance our province's influence and competitiveness abroad, helping them to become better global citizens.

In addition, the study of French can reinforce learning in other subject areas, such as English Language Arts and Social Studies, where skills such as critical thinking and strategic learning are further developed. Students who learn another language tend to be risk takers, tolerate the unknown and more flexible and adaptable to new situations—skills needed in an ever-changing world.

In 1988, the Government of Alberta adopted a language education policy (1.5.2) in response to the enactment of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This policy set direction for language learning by mandating English language instruction for all Alberta students, as well as mandating French language instruction for children of parents identified under Section 23 of the Charter. It also encouraged instruction in French as a second language as well as instruction in languages other than French and English, as deemed appropriate by local communities. Second language programs, including FSL, are considered optional at all levels.

In 2000, a number of recommendations to enhance language learning across Alberta were identified. Alberta Education began planning for a province-wide language-learning requirement for grades 4 to 9 students.

Currently, Alberta Education encourages and supports school authorities who choose to implement a language learning requirement locally by continuing to develop programs of study, learning and teaching resources and assessment materials for a range of languages, including French.

In Alberta, French as a Second Language (FSL) refers to a course of study in which the French language is taught as a subject, often between 30 and 40 minutes a day in elementary. In junior high school, the time allocation can vary from 40 to 60 minutes and will depend on the school's timetable configuration (e.g., Day 1, Day 2 rotation). The ideal

is to meet the recommended 95 hours of instruction required to attain the learner outcomes defined in the FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE NINE-YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDIES (GRADE 4 TO GRADE 12). Alberta Education, however, leaves decisions regarding the organization of instruction and allotment of instructional time to local school authorities at elementary and junior high levels.

In senior high, French as a Second Language courses are five-credit courses and, therefore, must be allocated 125 hours of instruction.

COURSE SEQUENCES AVAILABLE FOR FSL

Alberta Education currently has two course sequences for FSL at the high school level:

- ▶ the nine-year course sequence for students who are beginning their study of French in Grade 4, and who will continue programming at the junior and senior high levels. Students who complete their FSL studies at the junior high school level and continue into high school will enroll in French 10–9Y, French 20–9Y and French 30–9Y;
- ▶ and the three-year course sequence intended for high school students who are beginning their study of French for the very first time. These students would enroll in the following courses: French 10–3Y, French 20–3Y and French 30–3Y.

In summary

The learning of a language such as French is considered an important component of a student’s education. To this end, Alberta Education has developed programs of study and a number of other documents that support the teaching of French. This Guide to Implementation is developed to assist teachers, consultants and administrators as they implement the FSL program of studies in grades 10 to 12.

Chapter 2 provides an explanation of the design of the FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE NINE-YEAR PROGRAM OF STUDIES (GRADE 4 TO GRADE 12).