***Please Note:* The only entry point to Early French Immersion is Junior Kindergarten.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q#1: How do I apply to Early French Immersion (JK entry) / Middle French Immersion**

**(Grade 4 entry)***?*

* Please visit the [Program Application & Registration System (PARS)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Application-Process/PARS) during the application period for that year.
  + Select the program from a drop-down menu on the right (Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion) and follow the prompts.

**Q#2: Where do I find my child’s OEN?**

* + The OEN (Ontario Education Number) is a nine-digit number generated for each TDSB student at the time of initial registration.
* The OEN is a 9-digit number found on any report card from the TDSB.
  + Your child’s school will be able to help you find this number.

**Q#3: My child is not in the TDSB and does not have an OEN; what now?**

* + For non-TDSB students, please select the “Non-TDSB Student” option on the PARS site and follow the steps to generate an identification number. It is called a PARS ID and will start with the letter “A”.
  + Then, go back to the application page and use this number in place of an OEN.
* Select the program from a drop-down menu on the right (Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion) and follow the prompts.

**Q#4: Is it a first-come first-served process?**

* + No, all applications received by the deadline are treated with the same priority and at this time, are guaranteed a place **in the program** (placement in a given school cannot be guaranteed).
  + All applications received after the deadline will be held on a waitlist.

**Q#5: I cannot easily access the internet from home, or I am having difficulty with the on-line system.**

* + If you cannot access the internet from home or have any other challenges using the on-line system, please inquire at your local school for assistance or for use of a computer.

**Q#6: When will I hear if the offer of placement is made?**

* + Parents/guardians/caregivers will be offered a placement for their child via the email **provided online** during the application period beginning shortly after the deadline passes and continuing through the following weeks.
  + Parents/guardians/caregivers must take action as outlined in the email offer to accept the placement on-line.
  + A lack of reply is taken as a “no thank you”.
  + Not all families in a given area will receive their offers of placement at the same time, but all will receive one.
  + Please check email frequently (including junk mail) in the weeks following the deadline to apply.
  + All applicants who apply on-time are guaranteed an offer of placement in the program, but **not** in a particular school.

**Q#7: How is the placement in a given school decided?**

* Siblings have priority placement in the same school as their older sibling provided that they apply on-time and the children will be in the same French program, in the same school, the same year.
* All other students are offered a placement in a French Immersion school based on their home address at the time of application.
* To determine the French Immersion school associated with your home address, please visit the [Find Your School](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School) page.
* While every effort will be made to place students in the school identified as their area French Immersion school, this is not always possible. ***In cases where the number of applications in a given area is greater than the number of allotted program spaces in the school, students may be redirected to schools with available program space***.

**Q#8: Do I have to accept the placement at the redirected school in order to remain on the**

**waitlist?**

* No, all families offered a redirected placement (*i.e., at a school other than their designated school*) will be held on a waitlist for their designated school.
* This waitlist remains active as follows:
  + The waitlist to the Early French Immersion program expires at the end of September of the initial year of the EFI program.
  + The waitlist to the Middle French Immersion program expires at the end of September of the initial year of the MFI program.
* Waitlists remain active for a limited time.

**Q#9: When do I register my child at the school?**

* French program schools will determine a time for families to register in early spring and they will communicate that with the families on their list directly.

**Q#10: How do I inquire about attending a school other than the one offered via the central**

**application process?**

* Offers of placement are made based on **home address**.
* Any family who wishes to attend an Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion program at a school other than the one designated for their home address, the parents/guardians/caregivers may apply via the “Out-of-Area” admissions procedure prior to the deadline.
* For information regarding the “Out-of-Area” admissions procedure, including forms, please visit the [Out-of-Area Admissions](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/Out-of-Area-Admissions) page.
* Please follow the process as indicated within the timelines specified on the online application.
* There is no guarantee of placement via the “Out-of-Area” admissions procedure; if admitted, no transportation is provided.
* These applications are considered **after** the central placement process is complete.

**Q#11: Will there be transportation?**

* Applications for transportation are made at the local school during registration. In accordance with the Transportation of Students Policy and Transportation of Student Procedure, students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 will be transported by bus, and students from Grades 6 to 8 will be provided with TTC tickets, where applicable. Students may be transported to Early and Middle French Immersion programs if the distance from home to school exceeds the following:
  1. Kindergarten to Grade 5: 1.6 km or more
  2. Grade 6 to 8: 3.2km or more

**Q#12: What about child care?**

* Families should contact their local school for information regarding child care.
* Placements in French Immersion are offered based on home address, not on location or enrolment in child care.

**Q#13: What happens for Middle/Senior School and for Secondary school?**

* The Pathways for French programs are listed on the [Pathways](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Pathways) page.
* You will be asked to fill out a Pathway Form indicating your Middle/Senior School and Secondary School pathway when you register at either your Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion school.

**Q#14: What if I move?**

* Generally, when a student already attending a French Immersion program in a TDSB school moves to another TDSB school, they are treated as an automatic transfer to the new school (as they would be in the English program).
* This protection is suspended in the case of an existing waitlist. Waitlists are only in place at the entry grades (Kindergarten and Grade 4).
  + The waitlist to the Early French Immersion program expires at the end of September of the initial year.
  + The waitlist to the Middle French Immersion program expires in September of the initial year.
* After these waitlist periods expire, a student may transfer from one TDSB Early French Immersion or Middle French Immersion program to the same program in another TDSB school.
* **NOTE:** If you move between the deadline to apply and the end of the waitlist period, you may have to join the waitlist at your new area school.

**Q#15: How can I inquire about the status of the waitlist?**

* All on-time applicants who could not be accommodated at their designated school and have been offered placement at another school, will be placed on a randomized waitlist for the designated school. The waitlist will be provided to the school Principal by the central French department.
* The waitlist is managed directly by the local school Principal once it is received.
* Please speak to the school to inquire about the status of the waitlist.
* Late applications will be held on a waitlist by date of the application.
* Schools may go to this waitlist after the families on the on-time waitlist have been accommodated.

**Q#16: The deadline has passed; can I still apply?**

* While the placements are ongoing, the PARS system remains “live”, meaning it will accept applications.
* A parent/guardian/caregiver may submit an application there after the deadline, but all applications received after the deadline will be held on a waitlist.
* Late applicants may be offered a placement **after** all the on-time applications have been accommodated, space permitting; however, there is **no guarantee** of placement for a late application.