**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**APPLICATION AND PLACEMENT PROCESS**

**EARLY FRENCH IMMERSION AND MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION**

***For entry in September 2022 only*, children who will be entering Junior Kindergarten or Senior Kindergarten are eligible to apply for Early French Immersion. Moving forward (2023), the only entry point for Early French Immersion will be Junior Kindergarten.**

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

**(Gr. 4 entry)***?*

* + Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/pars during the application period for the given 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 is a nine-digit number generated for each TDSB student at the time of initial registration.
  + 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 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 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, 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 following link: www.tdsb.on.ca/french
* 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 in 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 period 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 wishing to attend a school other than the one offered during the placement process, may apply directly to the school under the [Optional Attendance](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Detail/docId/177) procedure (except for schools deemed “Closed” to Optional Attendance).
* These applications are considered **after** the central placement process is complete.
* The decision to admit students under Optional Attendance is made at the local school Principal within the Optional Attendance timelines.
* Transportation is not available for students attending a school via Optional Attendance.

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

* Applications for transportation are made at the local school during registration. For 2021-2022, where transportation is approved by the Transportation Department, 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 childcare?**

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

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

* The pathways for French programs are listed at the following link below:

www.tdsb.on.ca/french . Click on “Pathways” on the left-hand menu.

* 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?**

* As a general rule, 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).
* **HOWEVER, this protection does not apply in the case of an active waitlist.**
* Waitlists in Early French Immersion remain active until the end of September of the initial year of the program.
* Waitlists for Middle French Immersion remain active until the end of September of the initial year.
* 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 FSL 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.
* The late list is arranged by date of application.

**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 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.