**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**APPLICATION PROCESS AND PLACEMENT**

**FRENCH IMMERSION AND EXTENDED FRENCH**

**Q#1 – How do I apply to French Immersion/Extended French***?*

* + 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 (French Immersion or Junior Extended French) 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 (French Immersion or Junior Extended French) 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 a 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 link below:

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 spaces in the school, students may be redirected to schools with available 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 until the last day of school in December.
* 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 and they will communicate that with the families on their list.

**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 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.
* 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.
* At the November Committee of the Whole, Trustees passed a motion to leave the transportation status quo for the 2020-2021 school year; that is once approved at the November Board meeting, there will be no service changes for transportation in SK to Gr. 5 in French Immersion or Extended French programs for the 2020-2021 school year. The same transportation guidelines that exist for 2019-20 will continue for 2020-21. Students in SK to Gr. 5 may be transported to French Immersion/Extended French school sites if the distance from home to school is 1.6 km 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 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 form indicating your Middle/Senior School and Secondary School  pathway when you register at the 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 December of the SK year.
* Waitlists for Junior Extended French remain active until the end of September of the Grade 4 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 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.