

Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute French Immersion Program Public Information Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2024

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples.

Nous reconnaissons que nous sommes accueillis sur les terres des Mississaugas des Anichinabés, de la Confédération Haudenosaunee et du Wendat. Nous voulons également reconnaître la pérennité de la présence des Premières Nations, du Métis et du Inuit.

Introductions

Sara Ehrhardt, Trustee, Ward 15

Mary Linton, Superintendent, Learning Network 22

Marc Sprack, Superintendent, Learning Network 23

Nadira Persaud, Superintendent, Learning Network 24

Bryan Wires, Principal, Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute

John Au, Principal, Riverdale Collegiate Institute

Angela Caccamo, Centrally Assigned Principal, Learning Transformation and Equity, French Language Programs, Classical & International Languages (K-12), French Review

Kirsten Johnston, Program Coordinator, French Language Programs, Classical & International Languages (K-12)

Daniel Castaldo, Senior Manager, Planning Department

Giovanna De Girolamo, Manager, Planning Department

Hafsa Hasan, Planner, Planning Department

Manpreet Sian, Planner, Planning Department

Agenda

1	Welcome, Land Acknowledgment, and Introductions	Giovanna De Girolamo, Manager, Accommodation Planning and Angela Caccamo, Centrally Assigned Principal
2	Opening Remarks (Trustees)	Sara Ehrhardt, Trustee, Ward 15
3	How to Participate in Zoom Webinar & Virtual Meeting Norms	Giovanna De Girolamo, Manager, Accommodation Planning
4	Purpose of the Meeting and Background	Giovanna De Girolamo, Manager, Accommodation Planning
5	Overview of the Schools Involved	Hafsa Hasan, Planner
6	French Immersion Secondary Pathway Changes	Hafsa Hasan, Planner
7	French Curriculum & Program Information	Angela Caccamo, Centrally Assigned Principal
8	Timelines and Next Steps	Angela Caccamo, Centrally Assigned Principal
9	Comments, Questions, and Answers	All
10	Wrap-up and Adjournment	Giovanna De Girolamo, Manager, Accommodation Planning

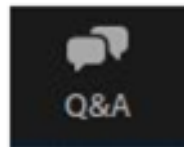
How to Ask Questions and Make Comments in Zoom Webinar



For computer and smart device users

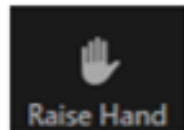
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To speak:

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Detailed Zoom Instructions

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Virtual Meeting Norms

All participants of virtual public information meetings are expected to maintain meeting decorum and abide by the requirements of the Board Code of Conduct (PR585) and the Code of Online Conduct (PR571). Discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated.

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If you choose to speak, **please minimize background audio**.



Opening Remarks

Sara Ehrhardt, Trustee, Ward 15



Purpose of the Meeting and Background

Giovanna De Girolamo, Manager of Planning, TDSB

Why are we here today?

- Riverdale CI is currently experiencing enrolment growth and accommodation pressures. This is expected to continue.
- A study was undertaken to determine a solution to address the accommodation pressures at Riverdale CI.
- French pathways were explored as an opportunity to mitigate enrolment growth.
- We are holding this meeting to share information about the new French Immersion Program at Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute and allow the opportunity for the community to provide feedback and ask questions.

Setting The Context

Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS):

- A roadmap for the future that provides an approach to program and accommodation planning with a ten-year timeframe that allows for responsiveness and flexibility in a changing environment by including an annual cycle of review.
- New Program Study: “Explore the relocation of French programming from Riverdale CI into Danforth CI”
- The Toronto-Danforth area is home to several secondary schools experiencing growing enrolment and accommodation pressures, particularly Riverdale CI.
- Riverdale CI has experienced growing enrolment for a number of years. In 2018 enrolment was 1,207 and has grown to over 1,600 as of October 2023.
- There is an admission restriction in place that has been in effect since the late 1990s.

Setting The Context

- In June 2019, Board of Trustees approved a set of recommendations within the French Review, to phase out Extended French and transition to Middle French Immersion.
- Riverdale CI is currently 146% utilized with six portables on-site. The school currently accommodates an Extended French program that is in the process of phasing out.
- Riverdale CI does not currently have a French Immersion program; several Middle French Immersion programs in the area do not currently have an assigned secondary school.
- The decision is to start a new French Immersion program at Danforth C&TI, and to assign the unassigned schools to the new program. Riverdale CI does not have space to accommodate a French Immersion program.
- Implementation is recommended for September 2025 to align with the phasing out of the Extended French Program.
- Establishing a French Immersion program at Danforth C&TI provides an opportunity to better align French pathways and balance enrolment in the broader area.



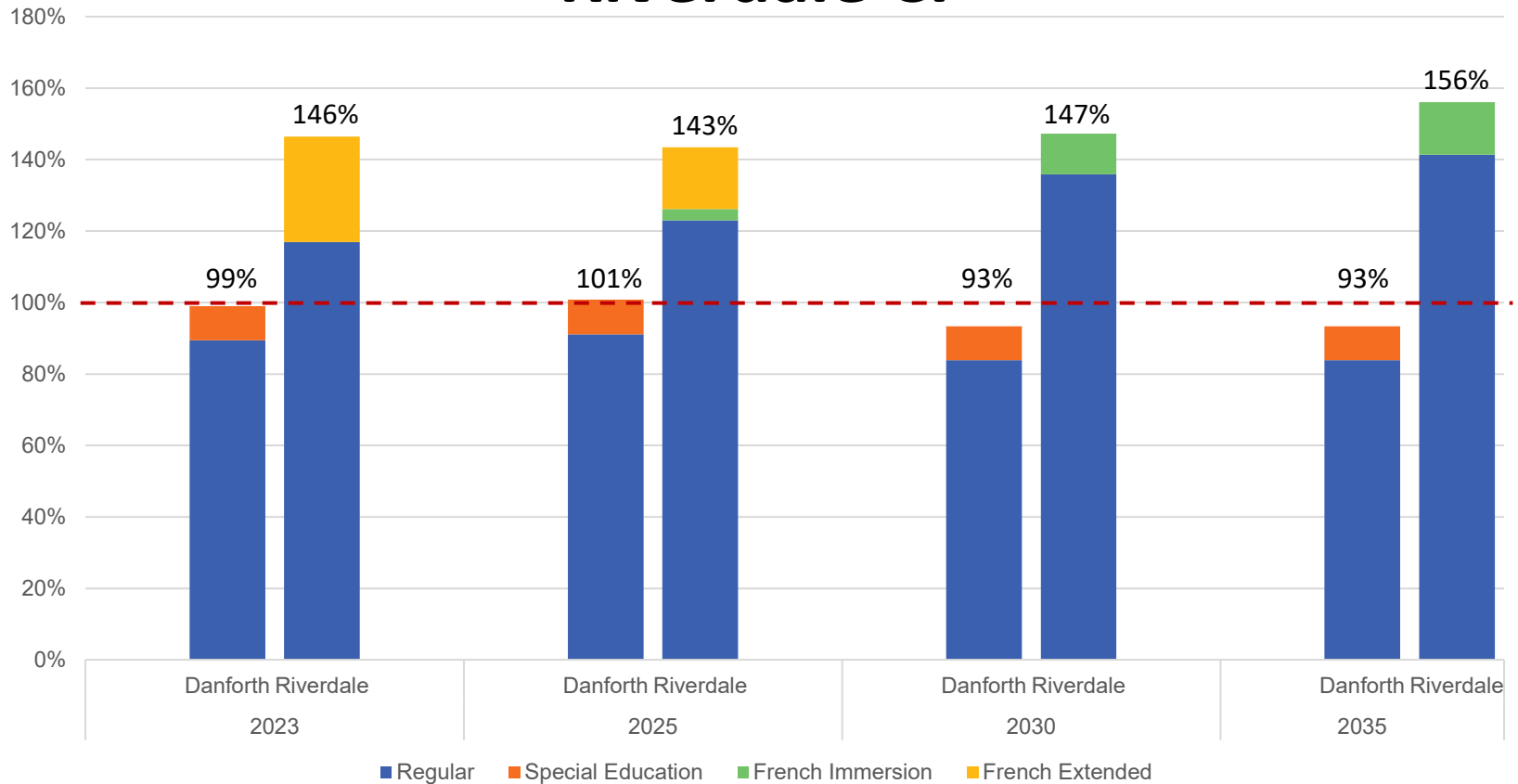
Overview of the Schools Involved

Hafsa Hasan, Planner

Current Situation

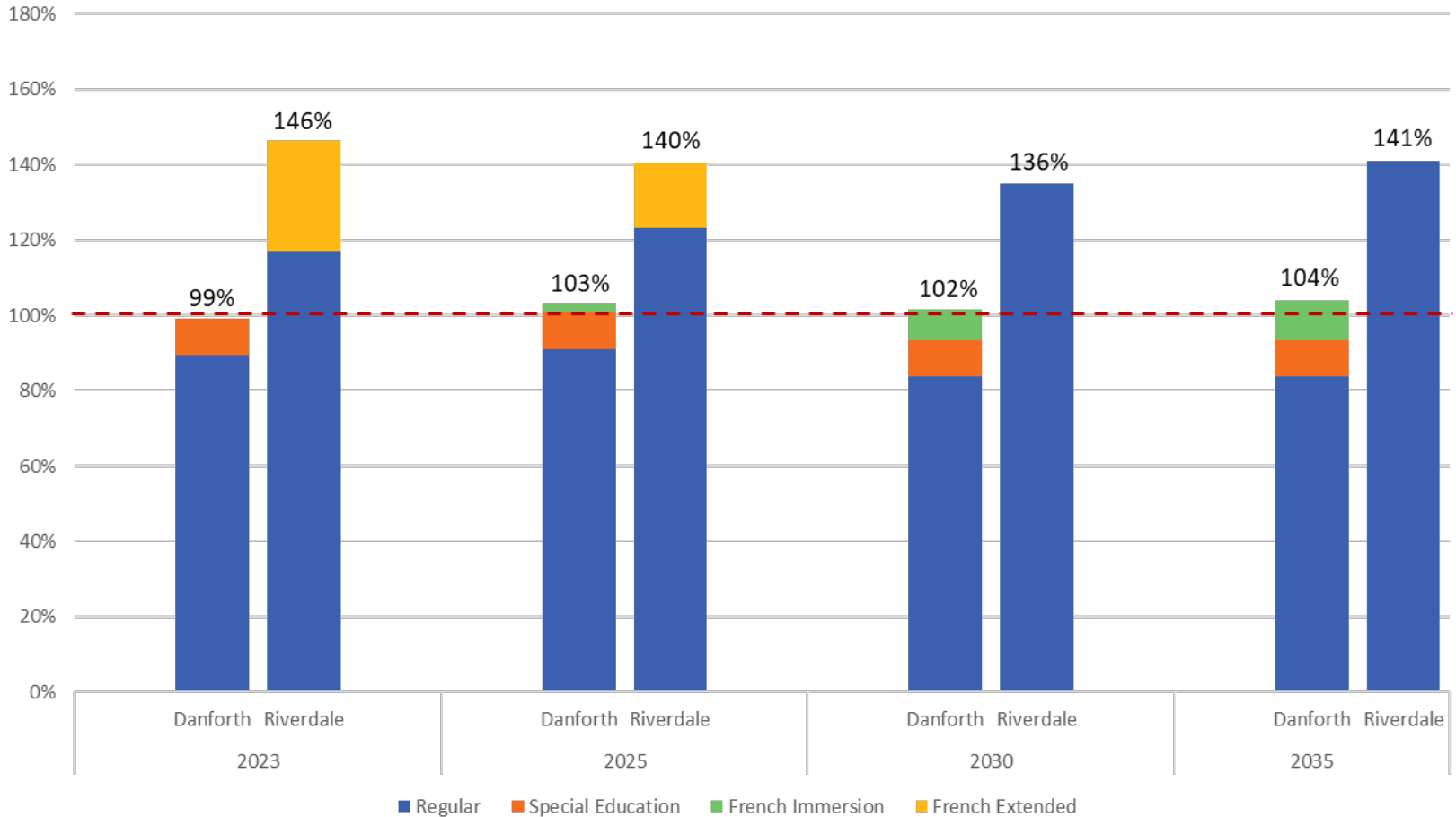
	Danforth C&TI	Riverdale CI
2023/24 Enrolment (Oct 31st)	1,523	1,634
School Capacity	1,539	1,116
Utilization	99%	146%
Programs	Regular Program Central Student Interest Program: MST Special Education: ASD, DD, LD	Regular Program Extended French
Out-of-Area Admissions Status (2024/25)	Regular Program: Limited-Siblings Central Student Interest Program: Limited	Regular Program: Closed Extended French: Closed

Enrolment Projections if French Remains at Riverdale CI



- Currently, there is no French Immersion program at Riverdale CI.
- This graph is to illustrate enrolment IF the new French Immersion program opens at Riverdale CI.
- Growth at Riverdale is due to the year-to-year growth in the Regular program as illustrated in the graph. As a result, the French program cannot continue at Riverdale CI.

Enrolment Projections With NEW French Program Changes



Current Extended French Pathways

- The final cohort of the Junior Extended French program, currently in Grade 7, will join the French Immersion program in Grade 9 as of 2025, as per a Board decision on the French Review in June 2019.
- Moving forward, all secondary students will be in French Immersion.

Danforth CTI

Riverdale CI

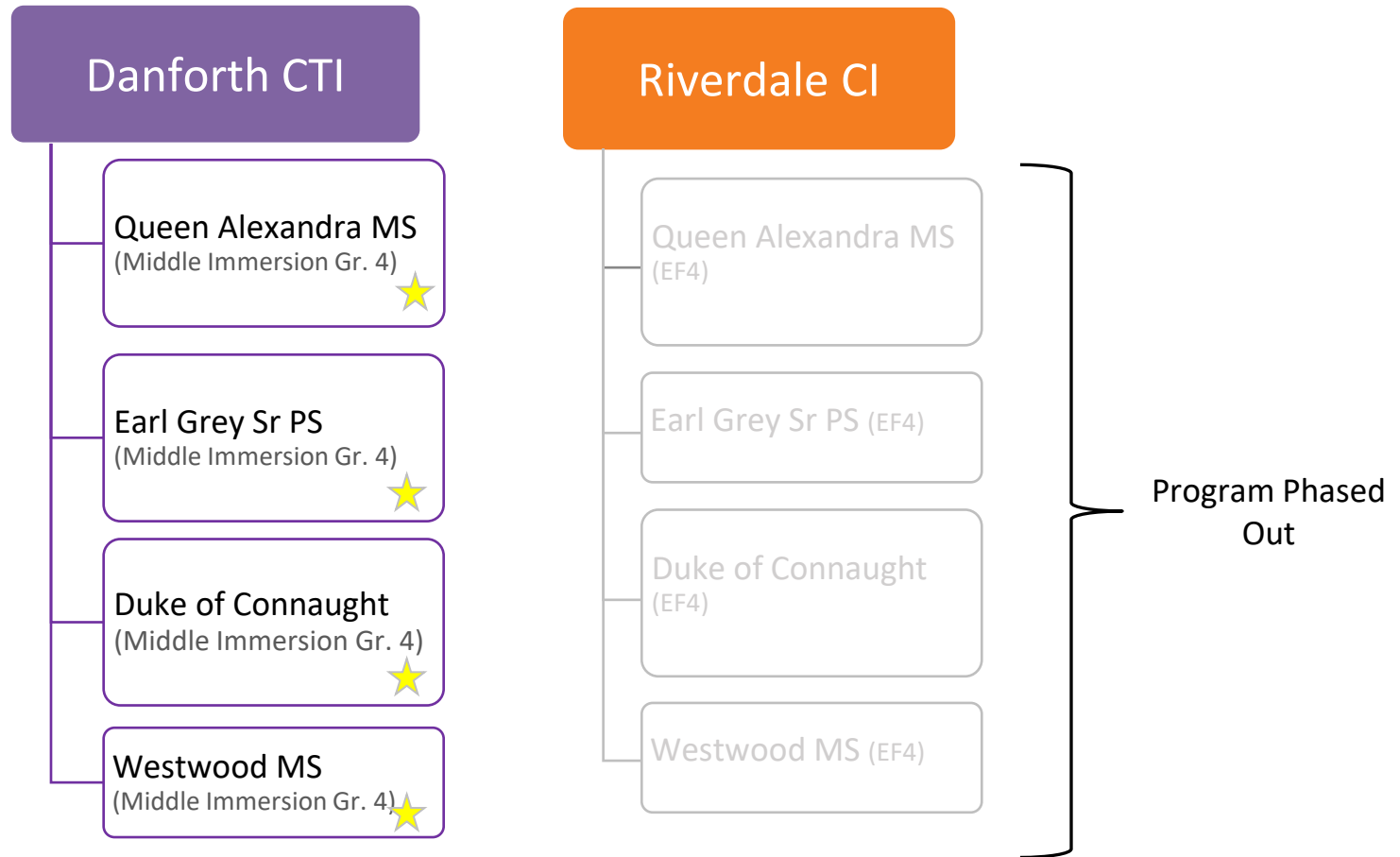
Queen Alexandra MS
(Extended French Gr. 4)

Earl Grey Sr PS
(Extended French Gr. 4)

Duke of Connaught
(Extended French Gr. 4)

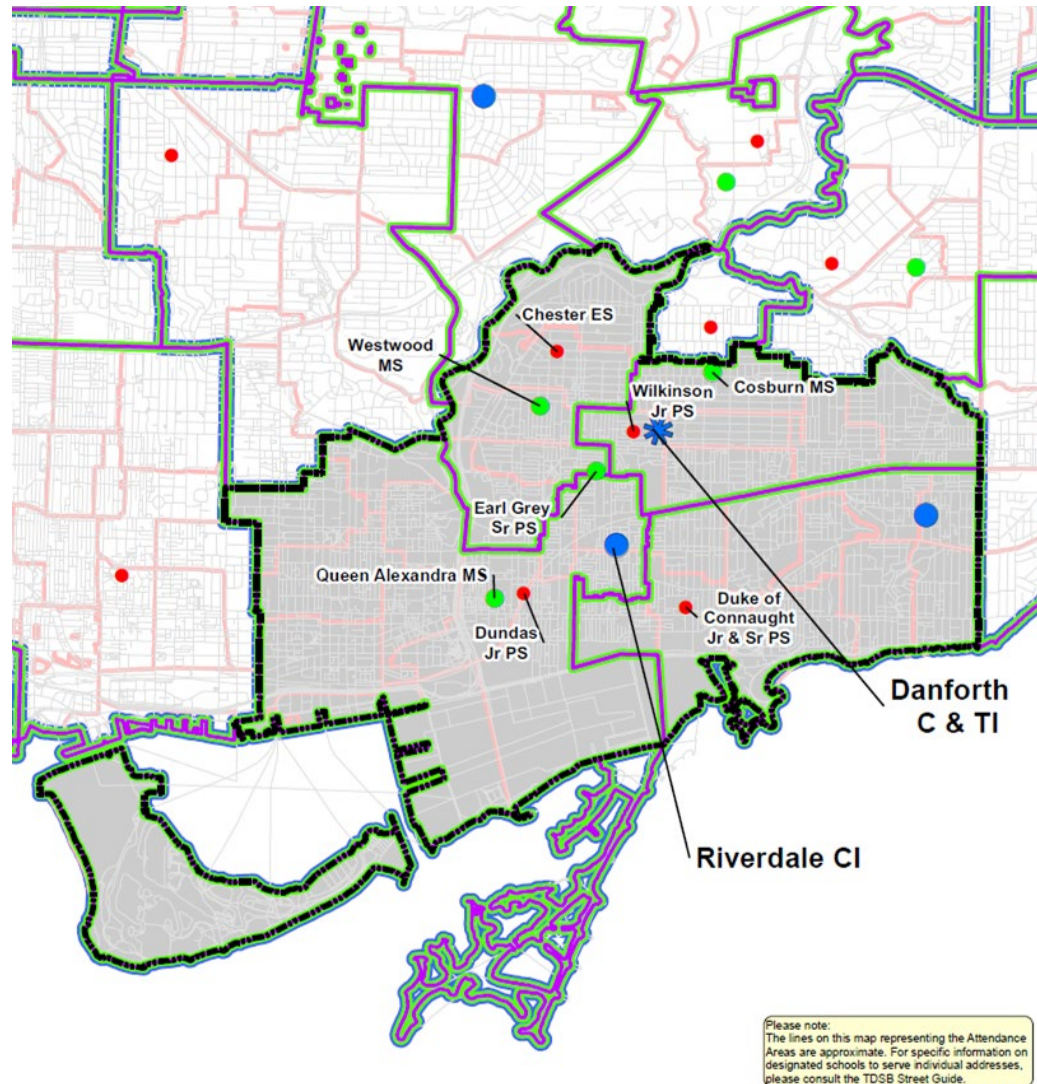
Westwood MS
(Extended French Gr. 4)

Recommended French Immersion Pathways



★ = New Program pathway

Secondary French Pathways – Proposed Changes for Middle Immersion



Considerations

- Danforth C&TI currently has a large technical boundary that guarantees access to addresses within a very large geography. As of September 2025, this large boundary will be dissolved. Students wishing to attend the school need to apply. Access is no longer guaranteed and is subject to pre-set enrolment targets.
- Pre-set enrolment targets will prevent overcrowding and eliminate the unpredictability of having large regional boundaries. This will ensure the school has space to accommodate the new French Immersion program.
- This decision impacts the last cohort of Junior Extended French and all future Middle French Immersion programs.
- Riverdale CI will continue to be overutilized despite the Extended French program being phased out. Future studies to address pressure at Riverdale CI include:
 - Future boundary reviews with Monarch Park CI (2026-27)
 - Exploration of a collegiate attendance area for Danforth C&TI (TBD)
 - Future alignment of the Portlands area to a school with available space (TBD)
- The admission restriction at Riverdale CI will be reviewed during the 2025-26 school year.



French Program Information

Angela Caccamo, Centrally Assigned Principal

French Immersion – Curriculum & Program

- At the secondary level, students will study 4 credits in French Immersion French (FIF) and 6 credits in subjects taught in French.
- For the content subjects, students in French Immersion are taught based on the same curriculum documents that they would be in the English program except that the language of instruction is French.
- Courses and/or subjects offered in French will be determined by the school and based on the identified learning interests and needs of students.
- Students who successfully complete the French Immersion program are eligible for the Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French Immersion.

Impacted Cohorts

- Current Grade 8 Extended French students at Duke of Connaught Jr. & Sr. PS, Queen Alexandra MS, Earl Grey Sr. PS and Westwood MS --> Riverdale CI in 2024.
- The final cohort of the Extended French program will join the Early French Immersion program in Grade 9, as per Board decision in 2019. These students will attend French Immersion in the new program at Danforth C&TI as of September 2025.
- All subsequent cohort of MFI will flow to Danforth C&TI as of 2026.
- Please note, as the Extended French program is completely phasing out of Riverdale CI, there will be no opportunity for younger sibling access as of 2025 and beyond.

Timelines and Next Steps

- **June 2024**
 - Distribute pathway change letters to impacted families
- **Sept 2025**
 - New secondary French pathways take effect (i.e. first cohort of French students enter Danforth C&TI)
 - Extended French program at Riverdale CI begins phasing out
- **Sept 2028**
 - Extended French program at Riverdale CI is fully phased out

Comments, Questions and Answers



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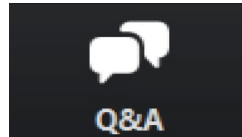
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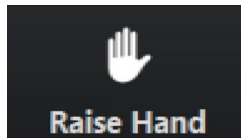
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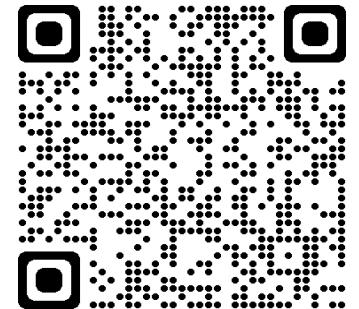
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Wrap-up

Questions and comments can be emailed to TDSB staff and/or Trustee(s):

- French Languages Program Related Questions: FrenchSLProgram@tdsb.on.ca
- Planning and Accommodation Questions: accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca
- Trustee Sara Ehrhardt: Sara.Ehrhardt@tdsb.on.ca



