

February 2026

Dear Families of Grade 5 Students:

The Intensive Core French (ICF) program is an alternate approach to teaching Grade 6, and of teaching Core French. **It is an optional program that may be offered in schools where registration warrants and grade level resources are able to support.** This letter provides information on the ICF program, and should provide sufficient detail to allow your family to make an informed decision.

Intensive Core French

- It is a literacy based program.
- It is an alternate method of teaching French as a second language.
- It is an alternate delivery of the Grade 6 curriculum.
- **It is not a French immersion program - specific subjects are not taught in French.**

Intensive Core French is a program which allows students to engage in French learning and increase second language competence. This includes:

- An increase in the hours of French language instruction
- An increase in the intensity (time) of French language instruction

What are the benefits of second language learning?

- Provides a focus on literacy development
- Develops cultural appreciation and diversity
- Enriches personal development opportunities
- Enhances communication and problem-solving skills
- Develops national and global citizenship
- Facilitates learning of additional languages

In the **ICF** program, the academic year is divided into two blocks, a **French block** and an **English block**.

French Block

- Physical Education, Music, Math, and Science are delivered in English.
- 60% of the time, students are engaged in French language learning.
- Grade 6 curriculum outcomes are integrated throughout the French block.
- There is a focus on developing oral communication skills in French.

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English Block

- 90% of the block is taught in English (English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health, Religious Education, Art, Music and Physical Education).
- 10% is French language instruction.
- Subjects are taught with a cross-curricular approach.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if we don't speak French at home?

- Reporting and communication with families is done in English.
- Regardless of the language spoken at home, there are a variety of suggested strategies that families may use to support their children. For example:
 - Listen to your child read in French
 - Discuss reading content and illustrations of French resources in English
 - View French media together
 - Continue to support and show interest in your child's program
 - Maintain open communication with your child's teacher

Is the ICF program for everyone?

- The ICF program provides equitable learning experiences for all students.
- All students have the opportunity to be engaged and successful in their learning.

What is a cross curricular approach?

- Teachers plan for instruction considering the connections between curriculum outcomes across various subject areas.
- Learning processes and skills are developed in the ICF program. e.g. problem-solving, summarizing, comparing, contrasting, analyzing, paragraph development, and engagement in the writing process.
- The integrity of the Grade 6 curriculum program is maintained.

Is there a requirement to complete ICF in order to enroll in Late French Immersion in Grade 7?

- ICF is not a prerequisite for the Late French Immersion program.

Selection Process

Upon completion of ICF registration, there will be a determination of the viability of the program in each school and the number of spaces available. Families will be informed of acceptance to the program by the end of May 2025. The class cap for ICF is 28.

Possible scenarios are as follows:

1. Where registration numbers exceed 28, a first come, first served **waitlist** will be created.
2. In cases where all students register for ICF, there **may** be full implementation.
3. Where registration numbers are low, the ICF program **may not** be viable.

NOTE: Please also note that the ICF program will be offered in schools where **qualified** French teachers are available.

Registration

Please note that the registration process for ICF will be completed online. Students will be accepted into the program by order of registration (first come, first served). ICF Registration will be done online through the NLSchools website, <https://www.nlschools.ca>. The registration form will be available on a dedicated ICF registration page as of 9:00 a.m. (NST) on March 9, 2026.

The ICF registration form will be available to complete at 9:00 AM (NST) on March 2nd, 2026 until 11:59 PM (NST) on March 6th, 2026.

Families who are unable to avail of the online registration process, please contact your school for assistance.

If you have any further questions regarding the ICF Program, please contact Joanne Connors, Program Specialist for French Programs, by email: joanneconnors@nlschools.ca.

Sincerely,



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