

School District 22 offers an **Early French Immersion Program** and a **Late French Immersion Program**.

Students who enroll in the Early French Immersion Program begin Kindergarten at either École Harwood Elementary or École Alexis Park Elementary. In Grade One, these students transition to École Beirsto where they continue on until Grade 7. Students are also able to join the Early French Immersion Program in Grade One at École Beirsto Elementary even if they were not in French Immersion Kindergarten.

The Late French Immersion Program starts in Grade 6 at Harwood Elementary and is open to any student who has successfully completed Grade 5. Each year in January, there is a Parent Information evening for any families who are interested in having their child enrolled in the Late French Immersion Program.

In Grade 8, students from both programs continue their French Immersion studies at École W.L. Seaton Secondary through to Grade 12.

Upon completion of the French Immersion Program, students who fulfil the BC Ministry of Education's graduation requirements, will receive a Double Dogwood, thus graduating with two diplomas.

For more information about these programs, please contact:
Maxine Champion for Elementary at mchampion@sd22.bc.ca or 250-542-1388
Yvonne Fiala for Secondary at yfiala@sd22.bc.ca or 250-542-3361, Ext. 3108

Enrolment Information

Early and Late French Immersion Program

Families can register their child for the Early French Immersion program at École Beirsto during the district registration dates. These are typically mid-January to mid-February of the calendar year the child would be starting school.

Families can register their Grade 5 child for the Late French Immersion program at École Harwood Elementary during the district registration dates. These are typically mid-January to mid-February of the calendar year the child would begin Grade 6.

Sibling Priority and Lottery System for both Early and Late French Immersion Registration

School District 22 has a sibling priority policy and a lottery policy for the French Language programs: Early and Late French Immersion.

Sibling priority means that if a family has a child currently enrolled in a French Immersion Program (either at Beirsto or Seaton) their kindergarten child or their Grade 5 child will be accepted immediately in the program during the registration period (mid-January to mid-February).

The lottery would only take place if there are more students registered than there are available spaces in either the Early French Immersion program or in the Late French Immersion Grade 6 class. The names entered into the lottery would be any student who registered during the District registration period. Within a week of the close of registration, names will be drawn from the enrolled students. Families will be notified and given a maximum of 24 hours to accept the space. The lottery will also determine the waitlist of students. Anyone registering after the lottery will be added to the lottery generated waitlist by date of submission.

Registration Information: <https://sd22.bc.ca/parents-students/student-registration-transfers/>

Grade One Entry in the Early French Immersion Program

Students can also enroll in the Early French Immersion program in Grade One. This process happens during the same dates as district registration mid-January to mid-February. For students already attending a school in School District 22, families will go to École Beirsto during the registration dates to complete the transfer paperwork. Spaces for entry into Grade One French Immersion are limited. The sibling priority and lottery system are also policy for students enrolling in Grade One in the Early French Immersion Program. Any Out of District students registering for Grade One Early French Immersion will automatically go on a waitlist.

French Immersion Information Nights

Each January there is a Family Information Night for any families interested in the Late Immersion Program. There is a presentation by the classroom teacher and a time for families to ask questions about the program.