

AP 205 – Modern Language Programs

Background

The Abbotsford School District recognizes the value to students of additional language learning, and supports the implementation of language programs subject to the viability of a proposed program and the availability of resources, as set forth in this procedure.

Procedures

The Ministry of Education mandates the provision of second language instruction from grades 5 through 8. The Abbotsford School District currently offers French across the district and Punjabi in certain schools as second languages within that grade range.

1. Definition: “Second Language”
 - 1.1 The term “second language” refers to the study of any language that is not the student’s first language. The purpose of such a study or course is to provide students with instruction which will enable them to become functional in that language, both orally and in written form. During the study of a second language, the instruction of culture and tradition is also emphasized to assist students to understand the emergence of a language and its importance to its people.
2. Establishment of Second Language Instruction Programs
 - 2.1 Subject to the regulation and policies of the Ministry of Education, the Superintendent will consider the establishment of additional second language programs only when the following criteria and conditions can be met:
 - 2.1.1 Classes established in the alternate modern language must be compatible with the other stated goals of the district, with respect to both educational justification and the direction of resources toward the program
 - 2.1.2 Sufficient minimum enrolment levels can be maintained to ensure the viability of a program. Once established, classes will be maintained above the level of 19 students at each grade level
 - 2.1.3 Suitable space is available to accommodate the program without impacting the viability of other programs
 - 2.1.4 Qualified instructional staff are available
 - 2.1.5 Adequate academic supervision and evaluation of the program must be available
 - 2.1.6 Suitable instructional materials are available to ensure compliance with BC Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines and must be approved via the district review process

- 2.1.7 A source of funding has been identified to cover all costs including, but not limited to, staff and instructional materials to support the program
- 2.2 The Superintendent may discontinue an alternate language program, with written notice to the impacted parents by April 1 prior to discontinuance in September of the following school year.

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