

French Funding Guide 2021-2023

Federal Funds

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Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

Canada 

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The Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) recognizes that students benefit from access to educational programming in either or both of Canada’s official languages. Although education is a provincial jurisdiction under the Constitution, the Government of Canada (Canada) supports official languages in education by funding Provinces and Territories (P/Ts) through the Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction (the Protocol)¹. The Protocol sets key collaboration parameters, outlines federal allocations, and governs the negotiation of bilateral cost-sharing agreements between Canada and each P/T.

French programs are growing steadily in popularity across B.C. Despite the challenges associated with growth, the province’s educational stakeholders have worked diligently to provide opportunities to make French programs more inclusive and accessible. In 2019-20, B.C.’s redesigned curriculum was fully implemented at all grade levels. This brought about a more contemporary and engaging learning program for students in minority-language and second-language programs, while seeing teachers engage in new and exciting professional conversations, learning opportunities and pedagogical innovation and collaboration.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care (ECC) priorities and policy initiatives, such as the Policy for Student Success and the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, continue to guide the work. ECC’s current priorities are:

- Quality teaching and leadership: teachers as guides and learning coaches for all students, including those with diverse learning needs
- Student-centered learning: maintaining provincial consistency in policy design and funding allocation, while enabling flexibility in program delivery for all students, regardless of ability or background.
- Future orientation: preparing all students for lifelong learning, encouraging the use of technology, and preparing all students for graduation with practical expectations informed by employers and post-secondary institutions.

Over the course of the implementation of the Canada–B.C. 2020-2023 Agreement, ECC aims to continue regular consultations with educational partners through a variety of surveys, teleconference calls, and virtual and in-person meetings, to ensure a comprehensive, thriving French education system for all learners in B.C. The provincial action plan matches the following areas of intervention, identified by the federal strategic framework for both French minority language education and French second language instruction:

1. Student participation
2. Provision of programs
3. Student performance
4. Enriched school environment
5. Access to postsecondary education
6. Support for educational staff and research

1. https://www.cmec.ca/156/Official_Languages_in_Education_Protocol.html

Notice of upcoming changes for the 2024-25 school year reporting

Alongside the development of the new multi-year Canada-B.C. Agreement on Official Languages in Education Programs (OLEP), the Ministry of Education and Child Care is reviewing the funding model used to distribute the federal funding. Ministry staff will be contacting school districts over the 2023/24 school year for input and updates.

As part of these upcoming changes and to address the French speaking teachers shortage, the Ministry is planning on collecting data pertaining to French immersion teachers on an annual basis moving forward. This could include metrics such as: French immersion teaching positions, immersion teachers teaching on call, movement of immersion teachers to English classrooms, etc.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration.

School District Grants

based on student level data collection

General Information

The Ministry of Education and Child Care administers federal funding intended to support incremental costs resulting from offering French as a second official-language in British Columbia. Under the current B.C. Action plan of the *Canada–British Columbia Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction 2020-2023*, **school districts will receive \$8,204,571 each year, for years 2020-23, allocated based on school year 2019-20 enrolments.**

This funding may be reviewed, amended or supplemented at the Ministry's discretion, on an annual basis, depending on reported enrolment in French as a second language, and the availability of funds from the B.C. action plan.

The following guidelines and recommendations must be taken into consideration by school districts receiving federal funding for French as a second language:

- **Please note that 2022-23 will be the final year for carry over, as from 2023-24, districts will not be permitted to carry over any French funding.** Any remaining unspent funding will be deducted from the district's subsequent French funding contribution.
- **All federal funds received by school districts must be spent entirely in support of French Immersion Programs or Core French Courses. The Ministry could reclaim any portion of the grant not used for this purpose.**
- **School districts are strongly encouraged to form a French Advisory Committee with representatives from the various stakeholders, i.e., trustees, administrators, parents and teachers to discuss the priorities in French programming in the districts.**
- School districts are required to keep an accounting of all expenditures of federal funds for French as a second language and report on these expenditures at the end of the school year. Auditing and monitoring of these funds should be expected as an integral part of the Ministry's funding process.
- **A Financial Report/Evaluation Form (FP01-SD) must be submitted no later than July 31**, at the end of each school year. The most updated version of this form will be made available for download no later than June 1 of every year through the [Ministry's website](#).
- School districts have the flexibility to reallocate federal funds between the funding categories. Reallocation of these funds must be reported in the Financial Report / Evaluation Form (FP01-SD).
- School districts may apply the federal funding to recover salaries associated with French as a second language teaching or at the district level for a coordination position, responsible for French programming. The total full-time equivalent (FTE) of these positions **should not exceed 1.4 FTE** and the associate salary cost should not go over 40% of the total OLEP funding, whichever is greater.
- Any amount in excess of the actual costs and expenses necessarily incurred in support of French as a second official-language becomes a debt due and owing to the Province, unless otherwise directed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

For the purposes of this Agreement, activities with an international scope, such as travel costs, shall not be considered as eligible expenditures for Canada's or British Columbia's contributions, with the exception of activities related to the recruitment of teachers for minority French-language schools and for French second-language programs.

Payment information

School districts can view the detailed funding for each specific grant on the table available on the [Ministry's website](#). Payments will be processed in the fall: 70% portion for the current fiscal year and the reimbursement of the 30% amount owed from the previous fiscal year. Form FP01-SD for the previous year must have been received and processed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, in order for the final balance (up to 30% based on expenditures) and the next year funding transfers to be released.

Supplemental funding allocations to districts are subject to availability of funding.

Funding categories

School district funding is allocated based on initiatives identified in the B.C. action plan. Each grant is calculated based on the enrolment in Core French and French Immersion FTE.

Learning Assistance Grant (FI only)

The purpose of this grant is to provide additional support for students who demonstrate delayed language, delayed perceptual-motor functioning and delayed social skills in conjunction with below average academic achievement. All district expenses in direct support of this initiative are eligible. This \$10,000 grant is to supplement school districts with less than 350 FTE.

School districts will be expected to report on the number of supplementary staff (Educational Assistants/ Specialists Teachers) working in support of this category.

Technology Grant (FI only)

The purpose of this grant is to assist with the provision of technology to French Immersion students. The integration of technology into French Immersion programming is meant to facilitate and augment students' language learning.

Hardware examples: computers, tablets, microphones, headsets, cameras, etc...

Software examples: Subscriptions to applications and online resources (*Learning A-Z, Sound Cloud, Edublogs, Le Curieux, Brain Pop, Planet French, Aquilla ebooks, AIM, Raz Kids, Epic ebooks, Lesplan, Un jour un actu, Idello, Infojeunes, Netmath, Mathologie, Mon Reseau, Je lis! Je Lis! Litteratie, Curio, Pixton, Mon Oryx, ONF Campus, TFO, KidsBlog, Antidote etc...*)

School districts will be expected to report on the type, quantity and cost of hardware, software or e-learning tools purchased in support of this category.

Learning Resources Grant

The purpose of this grant is to assist school districts with the incremental cost differences incurred when purchasing a French resource (when compared to the cost of a comparable English resource). Monies in this grant category can be applied to both classroom and library resources. .

Core French Grant

The purpose of this grant is to provide supplemental funding needed to deliver Core French programmings in participating school districts where the minimum instructional time of 4% is met. All district expenses in direct support of this initiative, including any allowable salary expense, as per this guide, are eligible. School districts will be expected to report on the type, quantity and cost of expenses incurred in this category.

French Immersion Grant (FI only)

The purpose of this grant is to provide supplemental funding needed to deliver French Immersion programs in participating school districts. All districts expenses in direct support of this initiative, including any allowable salary expense as described in this guide, are eligible.

School districts will be expected to report the type, quantity and cost of expenses incurred in this category.

Teacher Professional Development Grant

The purpose of this grant is to support teachers' participation in activities such as in-service/program implementation for Core French and French Immersion programs. Such initiatives may be offered to individuals or groups of teachers, and may include workshops, online learning, conference attendance and postsecondary courses. Additional bursaries may be available through the [Ministry's bursary programs](#).

School districts will be expected to report the nature, quantity and cost of professional development opportunities accessible to their staff in support of this category.

Cultural Activities Grant

The purpose of this grant is to assist districts in providing opportunities for Core French and French Immersion students to be exposed to Francophone culture through sponsoring French cultural events and activities. These could include musical presentations, children's theatre groups, field trips, etc.

School districts will be expected to report the nature, quantity and cost of cultural activities to their French as second language students in support of this category.

Intensive/Enhanced Core French Grant

based on student enrolment level

The bilateral agreement between Canada and British Columbia provides financial assistance to schools districts that offer Intensive **or Enhanced Core French programs**. In these programs, students receive most of their instruction in French during the first half of the year and a lesser portion during the second half; most of the curriculum (except for Mathematics) is “compressed” into the second half of the year.

Funding for these grants will be transferred under the following schedule:

- On or before October 31, participating school districts must submit Intensive and Enhanced Core French enrolment data to French Programs of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, for enrolments as of **September 30** of the same school year. The data must be submitted in a table similar to the following.

School Name	Grade	Percentage of French instruction	Number of students
ABC School	G	%	xS

- The current funding rates are \$250 per student in Intensive or Enhanced Core French, and \$2,500 per school offering the program. These rates may be reviewed, amended or supplemented at the Ministry’s discretion, on an annual basis, depending on reported enrolment, and the availability of funds from the B.C. action plan.
- 100% of the annual allocation will be forwarded to participating districts through electronic transfers in the fall.
- **Forms must be submitted no later than July 31**, at the end of each school year. The most updated version of this form will be made available for download no later than June 1 of every year through the [Ministry of Education and Child Care’s website](#).

Provincial Programs

Ministry of Education and Child Care, French Programs

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/french-programs>

Policies and official documents

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/french-programs/policies-funding-and-statistics/policies-official-documents>

Funding Support under the Official Languages in Education Protocol (OLEP)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/french-programs/policies-funding-and-statistics/funding-for-official-languages>

Student and Educator Bursaries

<https://www.bcedextranet.gov.bc.ca/bursary/welcome.htm>

ShareEdBC

<https://www.shareedbc.ca>

Official Languages Programs

Explore, Destination Clic & Odyssey: <https://englishfrench.ca>