



## REGISTER OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

### LINGUISTIC POLICY ON THE USE OF FRENCH

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## 1. Introduction

The present policy is a requirement of the fourth measure of the Ministry of Education, Leisure, and Sports (henceforth referred to as MELS) Action Plan for the Improvement of French in Primary and Secondary Education. (*Plan d'action pour l'amélioration du français à l'enseignement primaire et secondaire*).

## 2. Context

The Lester B. Pearson School Board (hereinafter LBPSB), is one of the largest of the English school boards in Quebec (in terms of student enrolment), serving students in the Youth, Adult and Vocational Education sectors and a growing international clientele.

The Board's territory includes five boroughs of the City of Montreal (Verdun, LaSalle, Lachine, Pierrefonds-Roxboro, Île-Bizard-Sainte-Geneviève) and the municipalities of Dorval, Pointe-Claire, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Beaconsfield, Baie- d'Urfé, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Senneville and Kirkland. In addition, the territory also includes twenty municipalities to the west of the island of Montreal, between the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers west to the Ontario border. These include: the entire Island of L'Île-Perrot; the municipalities of Très-Saint- Rédempteur, Sainte-Marthe, Sainte-Justine-de-Newton, Saint-Clet, Coteau-du- Lac, Les Coteaux, Saint-Polycarpe, Saint-Zotique, Rivière-Beaudette, Saint- Télésphore, Les Cèdres, Pointe-des-Cascades, Île-Cadieux, Vaudreuil-sur- le- Lac, Vaudreuil-Dorion, Hudson, Saint-Lazare, Rigaud and Pointe-Fortune.

The LBPSB offers Bilingual and Early Immersion programs in its schools to enable it students to graduate with fluency in both written and spoken French.

## 3. Challenges

The LBPSB's French programs must respond to the parameters of the Quebec Education Program, while providing choices for parents and offering flexibility to meet the students' needs.



#### **4. Laws, Rules, and Policies**

The LBPSB is governed by Quebec legislation, including, among others:

- 4.1 The Basic School Regulations (*Régime pédagogique*)
- 4.2 The Charter of the French Language (*La charte de la langue française*)
- 4.3 The Education Act (*Loi sur l'instruction publique*)
- 4.4 The MELS Action Plan for the Improvement of French in Primary and Secondary Education (*Plan d'action pour l'amélioration du français à l'enseignement primaire et secondaire*)
- 4.5 The Québec Education Program (*Programme de formation de l'école québécoise*)

#### **5. Local Measures**

The LBPSB's Linguistic Policy is aligned with the provisions of other local documents such as:

- 5.1 LBPSB Strategic Plan
- 5.2 The MELS-LBPSB Partnership Agreement
- 5.3 The Management and Educational Success Agreement (MESA) between the LBPSB and each of its schools and centres.

#### **6. Directing Principles**

Mission Statement:

As per its mission statement, the LBPSB undertakes to prepare its students to assume their roles as responsible, competent and successful citizens capable of working cooperatively within an ever-changing society. Linguistic abilities and competencies are important elements of this goal.



## 7. Aims

The aims of the LBPSB are:

- a- To graduate students who are bilingual, biliterate and bicultural by offering high quality French programs adopted to all students' needs and abilities.
- b- To support schools in increasing student exposure to the French language through French cultural, extracurricular and daycare activities in keeping with the LBPSB Strategic Plan.
- c- To prioritize the progression of the acquisition of spoken French at the high school level in order to be fully engaged in the Québec society.
- d- To ensure that the LBPSB's Adult and Vocational training centres offer French language programs in order to enhance the students' chances to succeed in the work force.
- e- To work towards ensuring that all teachers who teach in French are qualified through the CEL or CFRANC Programs or an equivalent, so as to support a high quality of French written and spoken instruction in all schools and centres.
- f- To continue to offer French language courses, through our Adult Education Department, to all employee groups, to facilitate the upgrading of their French language skills.
- g- To adhere to the Partnership agreement between the MELS and the LBPSB aiming to improve English and French language skills.
- h- To offer programs throughout the LBPSB, within the parameters of the Quebec Education Program, that provide choices for parents.

## 8. Actions and Monitoring

- 8.1 The LBPSB will continue to pursue the aims previously described and to use all pedagogical tools necessary to monitor and evaluate the level of French of its students.



- 8.2 Professional development activities and specific projects aimed at increasing the enjoyment of French literacy and culture will continue to be offered by the Educational Services Department.

## **9. Communication**

- 9.1 Communication with the government is in French.
- 9.2 Communication with the staff is in French or in English by choice of the employee.
- 9.3 The Pearson News (the LBPSB newsletter) is distributed in both languages.
- 9.4 The Linguistic Policy will be part of the Register of Policies, Procedures and By-Laws available on the internet for the public, in both English and French. Mention of its adoption will be made in the Pearson News.

## **10. Follow-up Measures**

The policy will be revised in accordance with the policy on Policy Development of the LBPSB.

## **11. Application**

The policy applies to all students and staff within the LBPSB.

## **12. Responsibility**

The Council of Commissioners is responsible for the adoption of the policy and the administration is responsible for the application of the policy.