

## What we heard

# EIPS needs to develop a clear vision for the French Immersion program

### VISION

Elk Island Public Schools' French Immersion program offers robust, high-quality, linguistically and culturally rich learning environments where students, K-12, are engaged in becoming highly proficient in Canada's two official languages. Students who graduate from the program are well-prepared to be active and engaged citizens in today's bilingual and multicultural Canada.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- To best achieve the program goals, French Immersion students are encouraged to remain in the program until the end of Grade 12.
- Maximizing the amount of French language spoken in the learning environment is essential.
- Robust enrolment—more than one class per grade—enhances teaching quality and student learning.
- Embedded cultural activities and opportunities are essential to the program's effectiveness.
- Supporting new school transitions, offering depth and breadth of programming, multiple choices in subject offerings and extracurricular activities is important to retention.
- Families play a key role in promoting immersion programs and supporting their child in achieving the program goals.
- The Division advocates for the program, its accessibility and sustainability.
- The Division develops ongoing strategies to recruit and hire the best possible staff.

### MUST-HAVE CRITERIA FOR THE SOLUTION

-  **Address enrolment growth concerns.** The Division anticipates significant growth coming from Ardrossan East and Cambrian Crossing.
-  **Address retention concerns.** Fewer students are deciding to stay in the program at the junior high and senior high levels.
-  **Support the vision and guiding principles.** Based on feedback from previous French Immersion engagement sessions, EIPS has developed a vision and guiding principles for the program.
-  **Be financially sustainable.** EIPS has a fiduciary responsibility to operate all programming at sustainable levels.
-  **Align with what we have heard.** A desire for robust French Immersion programming, such as course options, French cultural experiences, extracurricular activities, high-quality French-speaking teachers; school sites close to where students live; the least amount of school transitions as possible; more academic supports for students and families in French Immersion; a clear EIPS vision for the program; and ongoing engagement between schools and French Immersion families.
-  **Enable growth of the program well into the future.** A plan that enables program growth ensures EIPS can provide robust, linguistically and culturally rich learning environments for students, K-12, long term.



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