

## **Statement of Policy**

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Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' Board of Education believes that each child should have the opportunity to explore and learn other languages. When given the opportunity, it is the board's belief that each child should experience, understand and appreciate language and culture through language learning.

## **Rationale**

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The board believes that language learning contributes to the formation of students in heart, mind, body and spirit. The board believes that language learning develops awareness, sensitivity, appreciation and respect for one's culture, other cultures, as well as members of other cultures.

Language learning should recognize the Canadian historical and political context of Canada's founding languages and cultures. The board supports community and heritage language groups in the delivery of heritage language instruction.

## **Authority**

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- *The Education Act (1995), Section 180*

## **Regulations and Procedures**

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1. Language learning opportunities may be provided through:
  - a) Immersion/Bilingual Education Program:

Immersion/bilingual programs are provincially designated programs where the language of instruction is 50% or more of a school day/year.
  - b) Core Programs:

Core programs are provincially recognized programs in which instruction does not usually exceed the equivalent of 150 minutes per week.
  - c) Heritage Languages:

Heritage programs provide instruction in languages other than aboriginal languages or the two official languages of Canada – English and French.
2. The designation of schools for immersion/bilingual programs shall be outlined as per the Education Act.
3. The board reserves the right to determine the location and grade levels for language learning offerings.
4. Program offerings are to meet the goals, objectives, and requirements of provincially approved courses of study.
5. Elementary core languages may be offered beginning at the Grade 1 level.

6. High school core languages may be offered beginning at the Grade 9 level.
7. Where core language programs are offered, the program is part of the regular school program from Grades 1 through 8 and as an optional program in Grades 9 to 12.
8. Approval to introduce or discontinue a language option in any school must meet the following criteria:
  - i. Community support;
    - i) To begin a second language program
    - ii) To cease a second language program
  - ii. Sufficient enrolments to ensure a viable and sustainable program;
  - iii. Taught by qualified second language teachers within the staff complement assigned to the school;
  - iv. Commitment to offer the program to students once they have entered the program.
9. Schools requesting the introduction of a language option must give notice of intent to the designated superintendent of education by November 1 of the year preceding the academic year in which the program is planned for introduction.
10. Schools requesting the discontinuation of a language option must give notice of intent to the designated Superintendent of Education by November 1 of the year preceding the academic year in which the program is planned to end.
11. School administration and the Catholic School Community Council are encouraged to review community support on a regular basis (once every 4-5 years).

**Date Approved**

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January 20, 1999

**Amended**

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March 15, 2021