

How do I make an informed choice?



Key Definitions

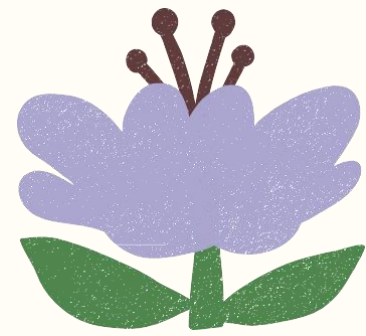


In Canada, the term francophone can refer to someone whose first language is French. They might most often use it to speak, read, write or think. French might also be their most often used language at home. ***Being francophone can also simply mean being able to speak the language fluently.***



In Alberta, French Immersion is an education program designed for students whose first language is not French (typically English speakers) to become ***functionally bilingual.***

Key Definitions



Francophone schools is admission based on the parent being a Section 23 constitutional rights holder. The parent holds the legal right to choose the education, the child is the beneficiary.

To qualify as a rights holder in Canada (Alberta), parents must meet **one** of three criteria:

- Their first language learned and still understood is French
- They received their own primary school instruction in Canada in French
- They have a child who has received, or is receiving, primary or secondary school instruction in French in Canada.



Today's Focus



Understanding the differences between French Immersion and Francophone education



Key criteria to help decide which option best fits each child

Why this conversation matters?

- Growth of bilingual education in Alberta
- Increasing diversity of French-speaking families
- Importance of informed advocacy and collaboration
- Role of educators + parents as co-decision makers

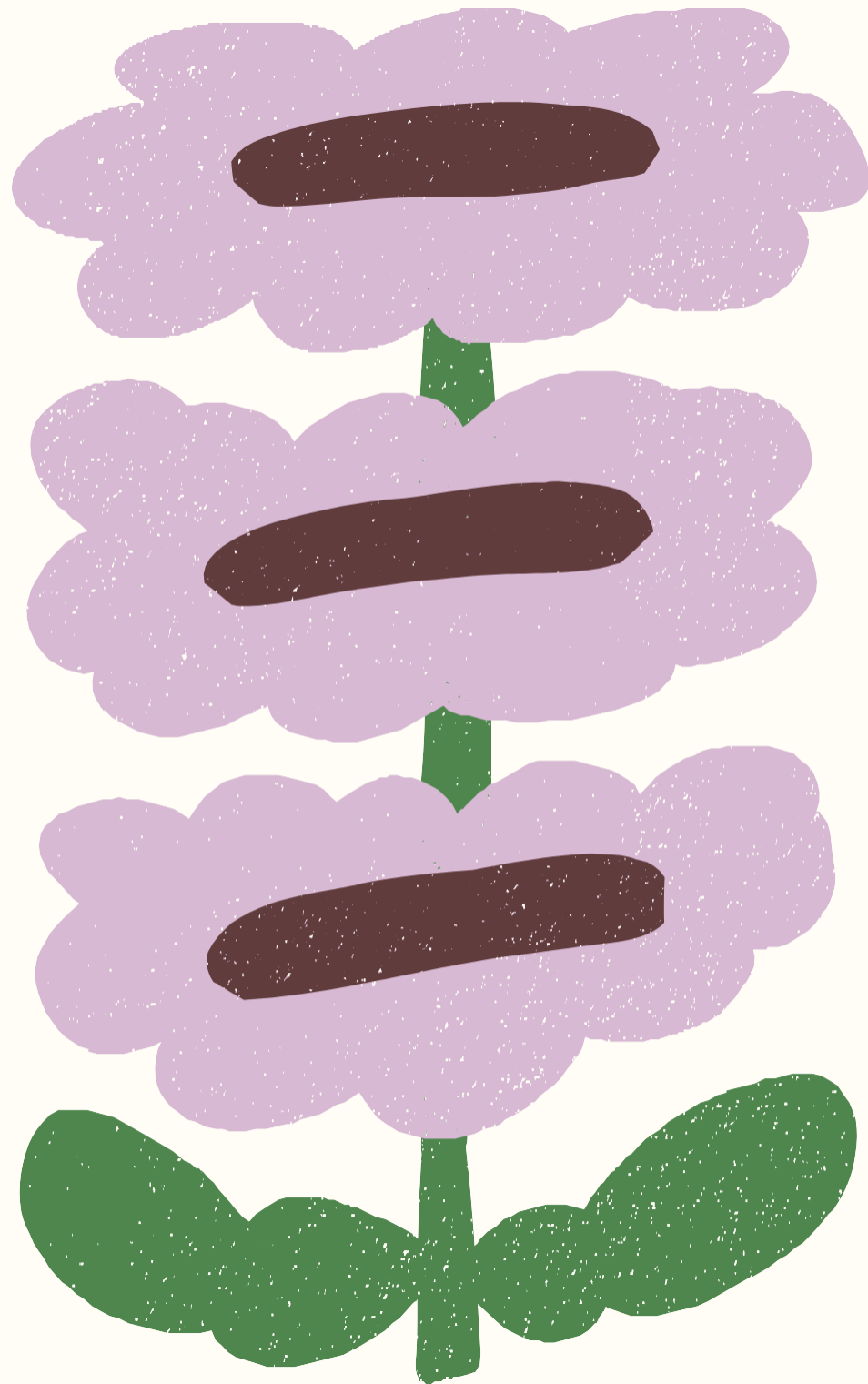


The Alberta Context

Alberta Supports Multiple French Language Education Pathways

Alberta formally supports two distinct publicly funded French-language education pathways, each with a different purpose, mandate, and target population.

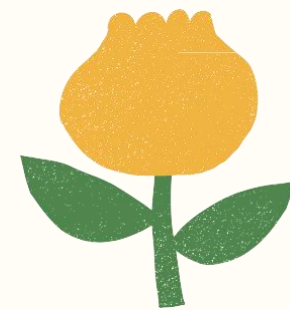
These are not “levels” of the same program —they are structurally and legally different models designed to serve different communities.



What Is Francophone Education?



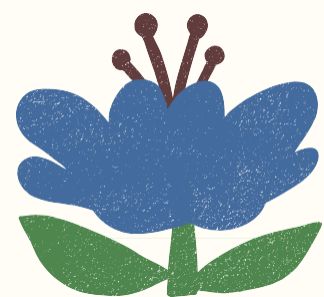
Designed for rights-holders under Section 23



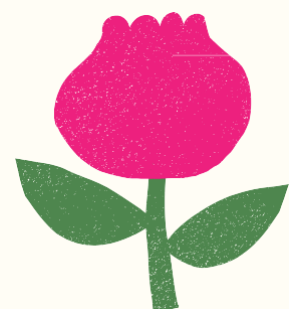
Focus on linguistic vitality, cultural identity, and community continuity



Governance through Francophone school authorities



Designed for students whose first language is not French



Goal: High functional bilingualism



Governance through Anglophone school authorities

What Is French Immersion Education?



CANADIAN
PARENTS
FOR FRENCH

Key Structural Differences

Francophone

- First-language program
- Rights-based eligibility
- Identity & community mandate
- Governed by Francophone authorities



French Immersion

- Second-language program
- Open enrollment
- Bilingual competency mandate
- Governed by English public/division boards



Eligibility & Legal Framework

Section 23 Francophone Education Eligibility

Immersion has no eligibility requirements





Language Outcomes

Francophone Education:

- Advanced academic French proficiency
- Strong cultural and linguistic identity
- Community continuity
- Français FR30, English language arts ELA30

French Immersion:

- High functional bilingualism (DELF B2)
- Academic success comparable to English stream
- Opportunities for post-secondary bilingual pathways
- French language arts & littérature FLAL30, ELA30

Parent Decision-Making Framework



We encourage reflection on:

- Does our family meet rights-holder criteria?
- How can our family's language experiences enrich our child's learning?
- What are long-term goals (culture, career, mobility)?
- Which school community feels like the best fit for our child and our family?
- What resources or experiences outside of school could complement each program?

True or False

1. Immersion students fall behind in English. 1. FALSE
2. Switching from Francophone to Immersion or English pathways may hinder a child's francophone identity. 2. TRUE
3. You can't succeed if parents don't speak French. 3. FALSE
4. French Immersion is only for high-achieving students. 4. FALSE
5. French Immersion programs are English first and French as a second language programs. 5. TRUE

True or False

6. Francophone education is only for students from French-speaking homes. 6. FALSE
7. Linguistic insecurity is more prominent in students of Immersion programs. 7. TRUE
8. Francophone schools are only for fully fluent families. 8. FALSE
9. Francophone School graduates meet English proficiency requirements for English post-secondary admission. 9. TRUE

Thanks For Listening!

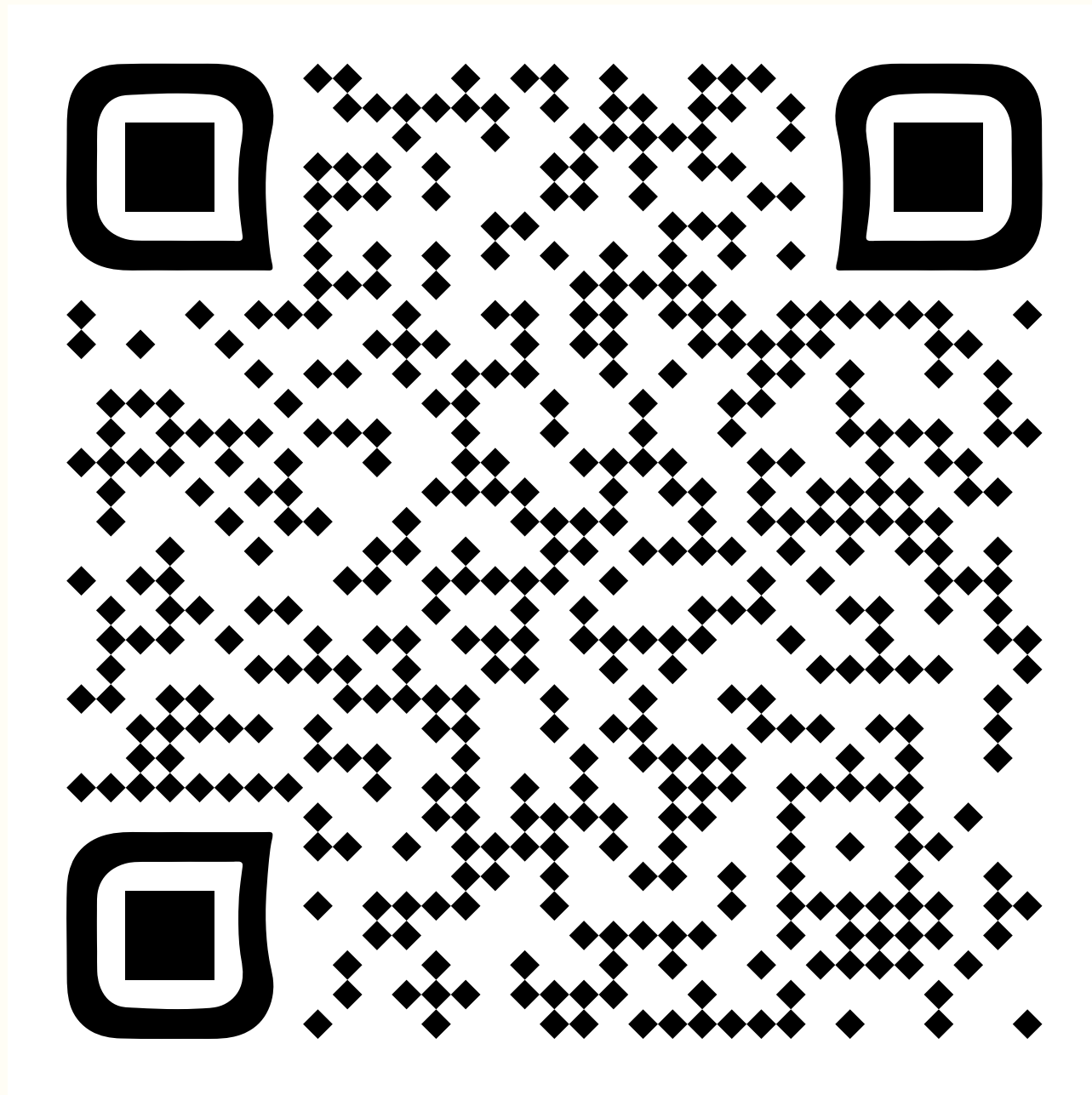
Any Questions?

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Evaluation



Resources

