



Section 500 – Learners and Their Families

503.10AP – Second Language Instruction

Purpose

Second Language Instruction

The Board believes that learning other languages and cultures enriches students' lives. All students except those with documented special needs must take a second language as part of the required curriculum in Grade 5 through 8.

Selection of Second Language

The language taught will be chosen by the school community. If the school community does not select an alternative, French will be the language taught. At the elementary level, only one second language will be offered at a school.

It is the policy of the board to provide language programs, other than French, to Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School students provided that:

- there is sufficient interest as defined by simple majority in the school community;
- there is an availability of human and learning resources;
- the language program adheres to contractual limitations, supplies and staffing allocations applied generally in the district; and
- students studying a second language are assured of a continuum of instruction from Grades 5 through 7 in that selected second language.

Second Language Exemption

Schools may choose to exempt a student from taking a second language based on an assessment of the student's needs. Reasons for exemption include:

- where it is determined through appropriate assessments that a student has special needs related to cognitive, sensory or physical abilities which warrant such exemptions; and
- where it is in the best interests of a student needing assistance in learning English, and requiring alternative programs.

Where it is determined that a student should be exempted from taking a second language, due to an assessment of the student's abilities, the exemption must be documented either in the student's Individualized Education Plan or in the district's 'Second Language Exemption Form'.

Kindergarten Through Grade 4 Second Language Instruction

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools endorses the introduction to second languages for Kindergarten through Grade 4 students.

Second Language Time Allocation

It is expected that second language instruction for Grades 5 through 7 will be between 90 to 120 minutes per week.

Second Language Instruction

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools will provide second language instruction in Grades 9 through 12 contingent on sufficient student enrolment, and availability of resources, curricula and staff. Grade 8 instruction in a foreign language is assured, but providing instruction in the student's selected second language after the elementary years is not assured.

Modern Language Challenge

In accordance with district policy, challenge and equivalency opportunities will be provided for students.

First Nations Language

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools recognizes that all students, in particular those of First Nations ancestry, should have the opportunity to learn a First Nations language with the support of the First Nations community.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools will ensure that all students, whether born in British Columbia or immigrated to the province, who require assistance with learning English, will have opportunities to establish their English language skills. English as a Second Language will be offered as a transitional program to facilitate the integration of these students into regular classes as quickly as possible.

Procedure

Selection Process in Grades 5 to 7 for Second Language Other than French

Where the school community expresses an interest for a second language other than French, the principal shall:

1. Consult with the Modern Languages Department regarding feasibility;
2. Obtain the approval of the superintendent to proceed with a community vote; and
3. Conduct a vote of all parents in the school.

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Timelines

A school decision to implement a change in second language instruction must be completed prior to March 31 for implementation in the subsequent school year.

Voting Process

1. Notice of a proposed change in second language instruction may be given to parents by distribution of notices to students at the school.
2. At least one public meeting for parents to discuss the proposal shall be held.
3. At least seven (7) calendar days' notice of a meeting to vote on a proposal shall be provided.
4. A normal school day shall be made available for advance voting five (5) calendar days before the parent meeting called for the purpose of voting on a change in second language instruction.
5. A quorum for the vote shall be those parents of students enrolled at the school attending the voting meeting plus parents participating in the advanced voting.
6. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
7. Each parent of a student enrolled at the school shall be entitled to one vote.
8. The school principal and three members of the Parents' Advisory Council will tabulate the vote.

Decision

Approval for change in second language instruction is by the approval of the majority of the votes cast.

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