

## Toronto-Danforth-East York French Immersion Program Pathway Changes - Frequently Asked Questions Part 2

**Q#1: I was unable to make the public information meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Where can I find this information?**

- If you were unable to attend the public information meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>, a [recording](#) along with the [presentation slides](#) are on the [review page](#).

**Q#2: Has the decision already been made?**

- Decisions to change Intensive French program pathways are operational in nature and do not require a board decision. Catchment areas and pathways may be changed at any time in accordance with board policy and procedure.
- By policy, the director or designate may make decisions on the establishment of a new site or relocation of a French Immersion program.
- To that end, a local feasibility team (LFT), which included Planning staff, French program staff, Superintendents of Education, principals, and local trustees, was formed to review the pathway changes and provide comments. The decision regarding pathway changes was then made.
- Staff held the information session on May 27<sup>th</sup> to provide the community with information regarding the pathway changes and give families an opportunity to ask questions.

**Q#3: Will these pathway changes apply to the Regular English program?**

- These changes only apply to French Immersion pathways. There were no changes proposed at the information session for the regular English program, special education, or any other programs.

**Q#4: How often do pathways change?**

- Pathway changes for French Immersion programs are operational in nature. They are subject to change from time to time based on operational needs.
- The changes highlighted in the Toronto-Danforth-East York French Pathway Study are necessary due to the accommodation pressures that exist at some local schools, particularly Malvern CI and DA Morrison MS.
- We cannot guarantee the duration for which these specific pathways will be in place, but we try to minimize disruption for families to the best of our ability.

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### **Q#5: If my child is in secondary school, will they need to change schools in September 2027?**

- If your child is already in secondary school, they will not need to change secondary schools.

### **Q#6: The reputations of the schools differ, and online rating websites indicate some of these schools are academically different. How is this fair?**

- Every one of the secondary schools in this study offers a breadth and depth of educational programming and opportunities for all students.
- The TDSB does not support the ranking of schools for several reasons. School rankings encourage quick judgements about the overall school quality that cannot be substantiated by limited information. These school rankings do not provide important contextual information about the students' experience in these schools, nor do they accurately reflect broader information about the quality of student learning within these schools.
- These rankings do not consider important social and economic factors that also contribute to testing performance such as special education needs and students whose first language is not English.
- Essentially, judgment of school quality should not be based on one single piece of information (such as student test results), but on the whole picture of what each school has to offer. These rankings may be interesting, but they by no means define or describe the experience of students in school.
- The TDSB does publish the following report, which could be of interest to you:  
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/research/docs/reports/LOI2023.pdf>

### **Q#7: Where the utilization is over 100% how are those students accommodated? What criteria are used to measure utilization?**

- The utilization rate is a measure of the enrolment of a school divided by its capacity.
- The capacity is determined by a set of loading criteria applied to classrooms. The loading criteria are determined by the province.
- Secondary schools have greater ability to manage overutilization due to flexibility within timetables for students. However, when a school grows beyond 120-130% utilization, flexibility is exhausted and it can no longer accept more students.

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### **Q#8: Data shows that Malvern CI will continue being overutilized. Why can't the current pathways be honoured?**

- The French Immersion pathway changes help alleviate the accommodation and enrolment pressures at Malvern CI over the next 5 to 10 years.
- We recognize there is more work to be done to fully address pressures at Malvern CI. The French Immersion pathway changes are one of many solutions that must be implemented to reduce pressures at the school.
- There are many solutions we are looking into, for example:
  - Assigning new residential developments to another school with available space;
  - Retrofitting the existing space to build more classrooms;
  - Looking at creating a dedicated collegiate boundary for Danforth CTI and ending admission restrictions at Riverdale CI.
- Any future study involving Malvern CI will be reflected in the [Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy \(LTPAS\)](#), which is posted on the Board's public website.

### **Q#9: Is there an exception for families that do not like the new pathways or families who chose their entry (JK or Grade 4) schools based on the secondary school their child would have attended if these changes did not happen?**

- There are no exceptions to the new pathways.
- If a student does not wish to continue within French Immersion, they have the option to return to their home school by address for the Regular track (English) program.
- If a student wishes to attend a French Immersion program at a school other than the one designated for their home address, the parents/guardians/caregivers may apply via the [Out-of-Area Admissions](#) process prior to the deadline.
- If the Out-of-Area Admissions status of the school is deemed "Closed", online applications will not be accepted.
- If the Out-of-Area Admissions status is set at "Limited", online applications will be accepted from outside their area.
- There is no guarantee of placement via the Out-of-Area Admissions procedure. No transportation is provided.

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### **Q#10: How will East York CI have sufficient French Immersion course options for students, and what new FI programming might be offered?**

- In high school, students in French Immersion will complete 10 credits in French over four years. This includes 4 credits in French language courses (called FIF) and 6 credits in other subjects taught in French, like history or geography.
- The specific courses available in French may vary by school, depending on students interests and needs.
- For more information, please contact the school directly.


### **Q#11: What extracurricular activities and programs (particularly in the arts) does Danforth CTI offer?**

- Danforth CTI currently has 324 unique course offerings servicing all academic pathways, and a broad selection of elective courses including 28 Arts options (across all grade levels), 7 Business, 12 electives in Canadian and World Studies, a full range of personal and group Health and Physical education courses including Kinesiology and Leadership, all science and math electives, including Interdisciplinary courses in Engineering Design at grade 11 and 12, and 28 technology and computers courses including Computer Science, Auto (Body and Service), Communication Technology (incl. Film and Video Production), Hairstyling and Aesthetics, Construction Technology (Carpentry and Electrical), Hospitality and Tourism (Baking and Culinary Arts), and Technological Design.
- Please contact the school at [Danforth.CTI@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Danforth.CTI@tdsb.on.ca) or 416-393-0620 for additional information or to set up a date to visit the school.

### **Q#12: What steps will be taken to maintain full range of courses in the new French Immersion program at Danforth CTI?**

- Many of the courses students take in French during the first year of secondary French Immersion overlap with the required courses for Grade 9.
- In the second year, as enrolment increases and the program grows, staffing levels will likely increase as a reflection.
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- A horizontal bar with four segments of different colors: green, yellow, blue, and orange.
- We predict Danforth CTI will be able to offer a fulsome menu of course offerings in French Immersion as the students' progress through the program.

### **Q#13: Why was Riverdale CI not considered in this study?**

- As the French Extended program was phased out Board-wide, and due to accommodation and enrolment pressures at Riverdale CI, the decision was made last year to begin a new French Immersion program at Danforth CTI.
- The Danforth CTI French Immersion program will take in feeders from the Middle Immersion programs at Earl Grey Sr PS, Duke of Connaught Jr and Sr PS, Westwood MS, and Queen Alexandra Sr PS.
- Riverdale CI is currently overutilized (143% utilization rate) and projected to grow. The school has had an enrollment restriction in place since 2000 and has portables on-site. Therefore, Riverdale CI cannot accommodate a new French Immersion program.