

Manitoba AREAS FOR ACTION

Areas for Action	Improvements
<p>Study and take necessary action regarding enrolment in basic French and middle and late immersion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau d' l'education française (BEF) created a French Immersion Liaison Officer position to facilitate communication between BEF and French immersion schools. • There appears to be renewed interest in middle and late immersion. A few urban school divisions have had discussions with staff and parents about middle and late immersion but, although it is acknowledged that more entry points would increase accessibility, nothing concrete has been done. • An intensive (core) French pilot programme is under consideration for September 2005. • The publication <i>French Immersion in Manitoba</i> provides information about learning French, the role of parents, the struggling learner and post-secondary FSL opportunities. • The <i>Building Connections</i> conference provided support to administrators and parents with children in FSL programmes. Another conference will be held in November 2004. • A survey of school principals identified a number of challenges: FSL teacher shortages, creating French milieus in dual track schools, involving parents in FSL programmes, maintaining enrolment, providing factual information in response to parents' misconceptions about immersion education and attrition from secondary FSL programmes. • <i>The Bi-Annual Second Language Teaching Symposium</i> organized by Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba provided professional development for 700 teachers and administrators in areas identified by the principals' survey.
<p>Address the need for a supply of qualified teachers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although interest in FSL teaching careers is being stimulated, there are no additional spaces for interested applicants in the Faculties of Education at St. Boniface, at the University of Winnipeg or at the University of Manitoba. • FSL stakeholder organizations are meeting to discuss how federal funds can be best accessed and used to increase the supply of qualified FSL teachers. The provincial government has facilitated similar meetings. • CUSB and the Universities of Regina, Alberta and British Columbia are discussing the creation of a Master's Programme in Education for Western Canada, which would combine distance education and on-campus courses.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUSB has developed a six-credit post-baccalaureate diploma for FSL teaching- • The Manitoba Association of Immersion Principals hosts a bi-annual conference for unilingual administrators of French immersion to discuss recruiting qualified teachers, mentoring programmes for new teachers, professional development, and integrating teachers from out of province.
Mandate basic French at all grade levels	No improvement
Keep parents informed and involved in decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEF staff provides information about local issues. Their toll free number ensures easy access for parents. • Information regarding curriculum, amalgamation and other issues is available on the Manitoba Education website • <i>French Immersion In Manitoba</i> was distributed to French immersion schools and posted on the Manitoba education website. • A BEF pamphlet, <i>What Do I Want For My Child</i>, will be available in the fall of-2004. • Parents were included in the 2002 <i>Building Connections Symposium</i> and parents and parent councils are included in meetings to discuss amalgamation issues.
Clarify how school districts use FSL funds and address necessary changes	No improvement
Provide for special education within immersion	<p>Curriculum policy states that resources for special needs students should be available to all students, regardless of the programme. Provincial funding for special education is allocated to school divisions; however, school division policy may influence the amount of funding schools receive.</p> <p>Immersion programmes have access to the same special education services as English programmes, but shortages of qualified staff may make it impossible to provide service, especially in rural areas.</p>
Ensure that transportation without charge is available to all students	All school divisions with immersion programmes provide transportation, but some charge for the services. Most urban divisions offer transportation according to provincial grants, until Grade 6, but not after that grade level.