

MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAMS

Background

The School District believes that in addition to provincially prescribed courses, students should have the opportunity of receiving instruction in a Mandarin Bilingual Program. In a bilingual program, children are taught in Mandarin and English languages daily.

The Mandarin Bilingual is an optional program and, as such, Mandarin Bilingual students must not displace regular English program students from their neighbourhood schools. No school shall be designated exclusively for Mandarin Bilingual instruction.

Mandarin Bilingual programs shall be offered as follows:

- Early Entrance (Entrance at Kindergarten and Grade 1. No language assessment requirement for entrance)
- Intermediate Entrance (Depending on space availability and Mandarin and English language assessment)
- Late Middle Mandarin Bilingual (Entrance at Grade 6. Depending on space availability and Mandarin and English language assessment)

Mandarin Bilingual shall be accommodated, as space exists and enrolments warrant, in schools that offer both Mandarin Bilingual and regular English programs.

Program size will be governed by space and staff availability.

Procedures

1. Students entering at Kindergarten and Grade 1 will not be required to have a Mandarin or English language assessment.
2. Any student resident in School District 43 may enroll in a Mandarin Bilingual program, at the appropriate entry point, space permitting and dependent on successful Mandarin and English language assessment. Students entering past Kindergarten and Grade 1 may be required to have a Mandarin and English language assessment.
3. Any student resident outside School District 43 may apply for enrolment in a Mandarin Bilingual program and may be enrolled at the appropriate entry point, space permitting. The student may be required to have a Mandarin and English language assessment.

4. When an optional District program of choice (e.g. Mandarin Bilingual or Late French Immersion) must be relocated due to space problems at the host school, options will be reviewed with the school staffs, parents and appropriate advisory groups as soon as it is practicable to do so. The Board will be kept informed of the discussions and issues.
5. Transportation, if necessary, is the responsibility of the parent.
6. Aims of the program:
 - 6.1 To enable students to achieve equivalent levels of learning in the content of all subjects taken, whether they are instructed in English or Mandarin.
 - 6.2 To enable students in the early years of the Mandarin Bilingual program to achieve at a level in English Language Arts equivalent to regular program students by the end of Grade 4.
 - 6.3 To enable students to become functionally bilingual, that is:
 - 6.3.1 to be able and willing to participate easily in conversation in Mandarin and English
 - 6.3.2 to be able to take further education as appropriate to their ability and interest with Mandarin as the language of instruction
 - 6.3.3. to be able to accept employment using Mandarin as the working language.
 - 6.4 To provide opportunities for all students to gain insight into the attitudes, values and cultural heritage of the Mandarin speaking community.

Last reviewed: September 2025