



School District 70 (Alberni)

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RE École Alberni Elementary French Immersion programming

École Alberni Elementary (AES) projected 2020/21 student population of catchment area English program students together with Early Late Immersion (EFI) and Late French Immersion (LFI) students exceeds the school's current capacity.

District staff and school administration are exploring ways to increase instructional space in an attempt to accommodate all of AES's projected enrolment, yet realize some direct intervention is required to manage AES enrolment for both the upcoming 2020/21 school year and beyond.

First, AES is not accepting out-of-catchment requests for English-program learners. Programming will be based on catchment area students and any future accommodation of out-of-catchment students will not result in additional classroom divisions.

Second, AES will not be starting a new Grade 5 cohort of Late French Immersion. Current LFI students will be accommodated at AES and future Late French Immersion programming will be considered as part of programming discussions for the 2021/22 school year.

Third, the number of Kindergarten registrations accepted for Early French Immersion is limited by the school's ability to accommodate new EFI students through Kindergarten and Kindergarten/Grade 1 classes. Accordingly, the school has had to wait-list French Immersion Kindergarten applications after the Kindergarten limit of 20 students was reached. It is likely that more than 20 kindergarten EFI students will be accommodated but the actual number will depend on how many students can be accommodated within the available EFI classroom divisions.

Early and Late French Immersion programs have been extremely popular for students and parents, and it is unfortunate that limits on enrolment are required. Years of unchecked EFI numbers, however, have forced District staff and AES administration to reconsider this open-ended approach to Early French Immersion enrolment. It is our hope to accommodate as many new Early French Immersion students as possible.

How AES addresses new registrations and waitlists will be consistent with practices used during recent school boundary changes, including consideration of keeping siblings together in a single school. AES school administration will communicate the outcome of EFI kindergarten registrations to all parents seeking placement in EFI kindergarten.

Sincerely

Greg Smyth

Greg Smyth
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: James Messenger, Principal
Marc Fryer, Vice Principal