

How are French as a Second Language (core, extended and immersion) programs funded in Ontario?

First, you need to know how funding works in general.

The Ministry of Education website provides the guide for parents below and at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/funding/formula.html> (Feb 4, 2013)

School Funding - A Guide for Parents

The Funding Formula

School boards are funded through Ontario's "funding formula." The ministry allocates funding to each board using a formula that's based on student enrolment and the unique needs of the students in each board. The number of schools, their distribution and their physical condition are also factors.

Boards use this money to make the local decisions needed to educate their students. They do this by funding and staffing schools, designing programs to meet the needs of their students and fixing, maintaining and building schools.

How your school is funded

Each year your school board decides how much money to give your local school. The school then spends this money according to the plans and priorities of the school board and the province. For example, since schools, school boards and the government are concentrating on [improving student achievement](#), schools will spend money to support that goal. The school also considers its improvement plan developed by the principal and the school community.

Schools also have some choices in the way they spend money. For example, a group of schools might decide to pool their resources to fund a music program. One school might buy musical instruments, another might hire a local musician to visit the schools, and so on. It is important that schools, like school boards, can make these choices so that they can meet the needs of students in their communities.

Funding grants

The various grants in the education funding formula fall into three broad categories

1. Basic or "foundation" funding that every board receives for general costs, such as staff salaries, textbooks, classroom computers and other supplies.
2. Funds to help boards meet the unique needs of their students. English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) programs, special education classes and funding for remote or rural schools are just a few examples.
3. Funds that are used to build new schools, and to repair and maintain existing schools.

This funding is then used by the school board to develop its budget for the school year.

According to the [Education Act](#), school boards must submit balanced budgets. A balanced budget simply means that the amount of money that a board expects to spend is equal to, or less than, the amount of money it receives from the government.

Where does funding come from?

School boards receive money in two ways. First, some of the property taxes collected in your community go to your local school board. Second, the province tops up this amount to bring the total for each board up to the amount set out by the funding formula.

Second, you need to know that item # 2 includes special funding for FSL programs.

All of the various 'Grants for Student Needs' or 'GSNs' are announced each spring in the Draft Technical Paper and posted here: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/funding/index.html> .

This is the 2012/13 FSL Allocation from the Draft Technical Paper from under Language Grants, pp39-40.

French as a Second Language (FSL) Allocation

French as a Second Language (FSL) funding, available only to English-language boards, supports the additional costs of providing core French, extended French, and French immersion programs. The FSL allocation in 2012–13 is projected to be \$240.1 million.

French as a Second Language (FSL) – Elementary

At the elementary level, funding is provided for core and extended French based on enrolment in French programs for Grade 4 to 8. French immersion programs, if offered by the board, are funded based on enrolment in French programs for JK to Grade 8.

Current Ministry policy requires that each elementary student accumulate at least 600 hours of French-language instruction by the end of Grade 8. School boards are required to plan their French-language programs so that students meet this requirement. Average daily length of program		Allocation per pupil enrolled in the program
20 – 59 minutes	Core, Grades 4 to 8	\$291.44
60 – 149 minutes	Extended, Grades 4 to 8	\$332.05
150 minutes or more	Immersion, Grades 1 to 8	\$371.46
75 minutes or more	Immersion, JK and SK	

French as a Second Language (FSL) – Secondary

The funding is established according to credits as follows: Grades	Allocation per-pupil credit – French as a subject	Allocation per-pupil credit – subjects other than French taught in French
9 and 10	\$74.83	\$123.10
11 and 12	\$98.96	\$191.90

KEY POINTS ON FUNDING AND FSL

Pupil Foundation Grant:

For 2012/13, the Pupil Foundation Grant to school boards was estimated at \$9.82 billion.

This is the main grant that is given for every student, including French Immersion/Extended students, and is intended to pay for: classroom teachers, library and guidance services, classroom consultants (reading and program specialists), supply teachers, education assistants, professional and para-professionals* (attendance counselors, lunchroom supervisors, hall monitors, social workers, child/youth workers, community workers and computer technicians), professional learning, elementary supervision, department heads in secondary, textbooks and learning materials, classroom supplies and classroom computers.

*Professionals and para-professionals who provide support for special education, such as psychologists, psychometrists, and speech pathologists, are funded through a combination of the Pupil Foundation Grant, the Special Education Grant, and other special purpose grants.

Special Purpose Grants:

In addition to the Pupil Foundation Grant, school boards may receive funding from 12 special purpose grants: Special Education, Language (including French First Language, French Second Language and English Second Language), First Nations, Geographic Circumstances, Learning Opportunities, Safe Schools, Continuing Education, Cost Adjustment and Teacher Qualifications and Experience, Student Transportation, Declining Enrolment Adjustment, School Board Administration and Governance and School Facility Operations and Renewal.

The Ministry of Education requires the Special Education Grant and some allocations under the other grants (School Renewal, Capital Funding, Temporary Accommodation, School Condition Improvement and New Teacher Induction Program) be used only for the intended purpose.

Student Transportation Grant:

For 2012/13, the Student Transportation Grant to school boards was estimated at \$847.1 million.

This grant is given to pay for bussing and public transit tickets which are provided based on local board transportation policies. Not all school boards provide bussing to French immersion/extended programs. The transportation grant is not directly formulated from enrolment figures but is based on how much a board received previously with adjustments for fuel costs, efficiencies by partnering with other local school boards and enrolment changes.

Language Grant: French Second Language Allocation

For 2012/13, the French Second Language Grant to school boards was estimated at \$240.1 million.

The Ministry of Education says the FSL grant ‘supports additional costs for providing core, extended and immersion’ but does not define what that could be. The FSL grant is not ‘sweatered’ which means that individual school boards have full discretion on how or even if that money is spent on French. School boards are not required to report on how they spend the FSL grant.

What might some ‘additional costs’ be?

- Difference between the cost of a French textbook or learning material and the corresponding English version
- Startup funds to supply French textbooks and learning materials to new classrooms and new programs
- French performers, artists
- Exchanges for students, teachers
- Promotion for FSL programs
- Covering shortfalls in transportation grant by providing bussing to immersion/extended students

Role of the federal government in FSL education:

For 2012/13, the federal government contributed \$24.1 million to the Ministry of Education for FSL

The federal government supports FSL education by providing a grant under the Official Languages in Education (OLE) Agreement 2009-2013 with the Province of Ontario. The Agreement lays out the commitment of both levels of government to FSL education and is available here:

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/lo-ol/entente-agreement/education/index-eng.cfm> .

Additional Official Languages in Education (OLE) Funding for French Second Language Programs:

For 2012/13, OLE funding to school boards for teacher Professional Development \$10.4 million

For 2012/13, OLE funding to school boards for developing student oral French skills \$2.8 million

The Ministry of Education provides ‘sweatered’ funding which school boards must use the money to support the 2009-13 Action Plan priorities of ‘Enriched School Environment’ and ‘Support for Educational Staff and Research’ from the Official Languages in Education (OLE) agreement. It is a combination of federal and provincial money. The next agreement is currently being negotiated between the federal and provincial government.

Attachments:

FSL Allocations by Board 2012/13

FSL Allocations and Official Languages in Education Funding by Board 2011/12

Canadian Parents for French (Ontario), February 4, 2013