

Question: How does the French Immersion Program work after 5th grade?

Response: Students take a French class every day for 47 minutes and a French Humanities class in the exploratory block every other day.

Question: What is the typical percentage of families who choose French vs English

Response: Once STEM was introduced, it has leveled out to about half of the kindergarten families choosing French.

Question: How much interaction do French students have with the English Innovation Pathway students?

Response: At some schools, students are able to sit together for lunch. In all schools, students have recess with their grade level peers. Schools may also do MTA, RAD or math games in a mixed French/English setting. In fifth grade, 70% of the student day will be mixed with French/English students.

Question: What level of French are students in when they arrive in High School?

Response: No comparison can be fairly done since students in the English Pathway are not in a Spanish Immersion environment. However, students will arrive with more skills in Spanish and could be placed in a higher level Spanish class.

Question: Are students in French Immersion in the same class from grades 1 - 5?

Response: If there is one French Immersion class, then students will remain with the same cohort until 5th grade. In fifth grade, they will be mixed for 70% of the day.

Question: Are there statistics showing which program works better? Statistics against the program to see which program does better?

Response: Dr. Laura O'Dwyer and Avery Newton (Boston College) completed a study that tracked students who were in both programs through graduation. The finding showed that there is no statistical academic advantage of being in either program based largely on state assessment performance and GPA in high school.

Question: If a student is not reading at the end of kindergarten, will he/she struggle in French Immersion?

Response: No, our responsibility is to support students in either program at their learning level. Support is also available from French Reading Specialists and English Reading Specialists who push into the classrooms.

Question: General Curriculum - Are they learning about multiple nations that speak French and general Social Studies?

Response: Yes, the French Immersion students do follow the [Massachusetts](#) framework around Social Studies (At Pierce, the students learn about different nations that do speak the French Language)

Question: If your child is struggling in French Immersion after 5 years, what supports are provided in school?

Response: Qualified teachers differentiate instruction to support students who are struggling in French.

Question: If you go into the lottery and opt to go into French Immersion in another school, how does that impact a sibling?

Response: Younger siblings will go to the new school that the older sibling is attending unless families ask students not to.

Question: STEM - How much time is dedicated to STEM over the course of the week?

Response: Minimum of 1 hour but sometimes more time is dedicated if bigger project. Throughout the week students will be making connections in other content areas to the STEM activities .

Question: Do the numbers drop in French Immersion?

Response: Generally, there is minimal decrease in French Immersion. In English, the classes do grow to 25 students by 5th grade.

Question: Is there a gender majority?

Response: Gender runs proportionate to the grade level with some exceptions.

Question: Does it impact state testing?

Response: There is no statistical difference in MCAS scores between the French Immersion and English Innovation Pathways. By the time students take the MCAS, they have taken multiple computer-based assessments and had many opportunities to be successful in both French and English.

Question: Is there a difference in the amount of homework students receive?

Response: Students receive homework in alignment with School Committee Policy regardless of program selection. Students in the French Immersion Program may receive an additional content assignment, but overall the amount of homework is generally equivalent across programs.

Question: At what point do you lose your seat in the selection process?

Response: If you choose the French Immersion Program and are not given a seat in your home school, you are offered a seat in the English Innovation Pathway in your home school. If you opt to take a French seat in a different school, you lose your English seat in your home school but are still on the French waiting list at your home school. If you choose the French Immersion program in your home school and later choose to switch your child to the English Innovation Pathway, you may not have a seat in your home school.

Question: Are there any special classes for STEM in the middle school?

Response: There is a STEM elective course and teachers will differentiate if necessary but the course is open to everyone.