

<u>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</u> <u>POLICY</u>	
POLICY NUMBER:	P-2007
SUBJECT:	Access to Regional Programs of Choice
REFERENCE:	GAP2022 Extended French GAP2023 French Immersion GAP2024 Elementary Catholic Global Learning Programs
EFFECTIVE DATE:	April 29, 2014
AMENDED DATE:	October 16, 2016; November 17, 2020; October 22, 2024; June 17, 2025

“And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.”
Mark 13:10

1. In addition to regular track programming to deliver the Ontario Curriculum and Catholic education at each neighbourhood school, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) offers a variety of limited-enrollment regional programs of choice, at select schools, for interested students.
2. DPCDSB regional programs of choice include the following:
 - a) Advanced Placement (AP) programs (Grades 9 through 12)
 - b) Extended French (Grades 5 through 12)
 - c) French Immersion (Grades 1 through 12)
 - d) International Baccalaureate (IB) programs (Kindergarten to Grade 12)
 - e) Regional All Girls’ Catholic Secondary School (Grades 9 through 12)
 - f) Regional Centre for the Arts (Grades 9 through 12)
 - g) Regional Centre for Sports (Grades 9 through 12)
 - h) Regional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) (Grades 9 through 12)
 - i) Byzantine Rite programming (Kindergarten to Grade 8)
3. The process for accessing **elementary** regional programs of choice shall be equitable for all eligible students within DPCDSB’s jurisdiction.
 - a) In the case of an application by same-age or same-grade siblings, the parent or guardian shall submit one application per child.
 - b) If applications received by the advertised deadline exceed the available student spaces allotted to the elementary regional program, a random selection process specific to the elementary regional program will be activated to fill available spaces.
 - c) All eligible applicants, including siblings of students currently registered in the elementary regional program, will participate in the random selection process.

4. Generally, transportation of students to elementary and secondary regional programs of choice is the responsibility of the parents and guardians. Parents and guardians should consult the DPCDSB website for information about specific programs of interest, including transportation considerations.
5. The process for accessing **secondary** regional programs of choice varies depending on the program type.
 - a) Access to secondary **Extended French** and **French Immersion** is based on elementary enrollment in the respective French program. Note that exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for students entering DPCDSB in Grade 9 and who have equivalent French language experience but who may not have previously enrolled in Extended French or French Immersion.
 - b) Access to secondary **IB** programs is via elementary enrollment in an IB program or through other competitive application points in Grade 8 (for the Grade 9 IB preparatory program) and Grade 10 (for the IB Diploma Programme).
 - c) Access to secondary **AP** programs is via a competitive application process prior to Grade 9 entry. Interested students shall complete an online application which includes submission of the final Grade 7 and most recent Grade 8 report cards.
 - d) Access to the **Regional All Girls' Catholic Secondary School** is via registration at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Secondary School.
 - e) Access to secondary **Regional Centres for the Arts** is via a competitive portfolio and/or performance application prior to Grade 9 entry.
 - f) Access to the secondary **Regional Centre for Sports** is via a competitive application that includes review of learning skills on the Grade 7 report card and Grade 8 progress report, reference letters from teachers, and written reflections from both the applicant and their parent(s) or guardian(s). Access to this program is limited to the number of student spaces available in each sport sector.
 - g) Access to secondary **Regional STEM** programming is via competitive application prior to Grade 9 entry that includes review of elementary report cards and a written response.
 - h) In some cases, access to secondary regional programs may be provided to support differing abilities as per a student's IEP.
 - i) Note that Extended French, IB, AP, and Regional Centres for the Arts have boundaries, in which site access is based on the student's residential address and/or elementary feeder school location. Access to regional program sites from outside these boundaries may be considered via flexible boundary request where space permits.
6. Some DPCDSB schools may choose to offer, in consultation with their Family of Schools Superintendent, local programs of choice. Examples include Specialist High-Skills Major programs and enhanced programming in specific subject areas such as STEM. Access to these local programs is limited to interested students attending the school hosting the local program, based on in-boundary or flexible boundary status, as enrolment space permits.

7. Note that DPCDSB has an Enrolment Management Strategy that may require schools to be identified as Capped Schools with a maximum enrolment number or “cap” to ensure sufficient space in the school for programming and student access. Where regional or local programs of choice are offered in Capped Schools, enrolment in such programs of choice is included in this overall maximum enrolment cap.
8. Available student spaces in regional or local programs of choice at Capped Schools may be adjusted as needed to ensure all regular track program access for in-boundary students is accommodated within the overall enrolment cap.
9. No new programs of choice shall be added a school without prior consultation with the Planning Department to ensure suitable, long term accommodation needs of the local community can be met.
10. DPCDSB reserves the right to change the location of regional and local programs of choice should regular track enrollment projections require additional space at a regional or local program site.
11. Access to regional programs of choice is available to all students eligible to attend DPCDSB elementary and secondary schools. However, students who are not Canadian citizens nor permanent residents must consult with the DPCDSB Admissions Office prior to proceeding with the regional program application processes listed in sections 3 and 5 of this policy.