



**COMMISSION SCOLAIRE EASTERN SHORES
EASTERN SHORES SCHOOL BOARD**

ESSB Policy ES-188

Linguistic Policy

POLITIQUE ESSB ES-188

POLITIQUE LINGUISTIQUE

L'UTILISATION DU MASCULIN DANS CE DOCUMENT NE VISE QU'À ALLÉGER LE TEXTE.

Approved by the Council of Commissioners
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1. CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Context

The Eastern Shores School Board (ESSB) is one of 9 English school boards in Québec. The School Board has jurisdiction over 18 schools and six Adult and Vocational Education centres. The 18 schools have a total student population of less than 1,500:

- four secondary schools
- six elementary schools
- three schools that offer pre-kindergarten to secondary cycle I terms
- four schools that offer instruction from pre-kindergarten to secondary cycle II

The largest school serves almost 200 students and the smallest serves fewer than 5 students.

Challenges

Perhaps the most predominant challenge at ESSB pertains to the binary which concerns providing both Anglophone and Francophone students with adequate exposure to the principles and constructs of language; concerning both mastery of the primary language as well as second language acquisition. Fostering a learning environment conducive to academic excellence, individualistic achievement, and cultural appreciation provides the learner with tangible and exemplar language skills, ultimately preparing our learners to live in, work in, and appreciate the bicultural nature of Québec society.

2. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy targets the schools, centres and head office of the Eastern Shores School Board.

3. LAWS, RULES AND POLICIES

The Council of Commissioners of the Eastern Shores School Board approves and oversees the implementation of all School Board policies. The ESSB Linguistic Policy adheres to current laws and regulations including:

- 3.1 Basic School Regulations (Régime pédagogique)
- 3.2 Charter of the French Language (La charte de la langue française)
- 3.3 Education Act (Loi sur l'instruction publique)

- 3.4 Plan d'action pour l'amélioration du français à l'enseignement primaire et secondaire
- 3.5 Québec Education Program (Programme de formation de l'école québécoise)
- 3.6 ESSB Strategic Plan
- 3.7 MELS-ESSB Partnership Agreement

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 The School Board ensures that the stipulations of the Charter of the French Language and the MELS *Plan d'action pour l'amélioration du français à l'enseignement primaire et secondaire* are respected.
- 4.2 The ESSB wishes to graduate students who are bilingual, bi-literate and bicultural. Therefore, students will be able to remain in, work in a French environment while maintaining a high standard of English.
- 4.3 ESSB schools and centres offer high-quality English and French programs to all students, using a variety of teaching approaches.
- 4.4 The ESSB Strategic Plan and the ESSB-MELS Partnership Agreement mirror the 5 goals of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) action plan.
- 4.5 Every school and centre includes English and French as priorities in its Educational Project, Success Plan and Management and Educational Success Agreements.
- 4.6 ESSB offers regular and high-quality professional development to all employees
- 4.7 ESSB hires qualified personnel.
- 4.8 ESSB celebrates the rich cultural heritage of our diverse communities and its role in our understanding and acceptance of each other.
- 4.9 ESSB embraces empathy and respect for a multitude of cultural traditions and values.

- 4.10 ESSB supports and encourages the schools and centres to promote and value both English and French music, literature, culture and cultural events, etc.
- 4.11 ESSB ensures that administrative services (both written and verbal) are available to the public in both official languages.
- 4.12 All official documents and communications issued by the head office of ESSB are written and made available to the public in both official languages or in French only in the case of communication with the provincial government.
- 4.13 All documentation of an administrative nature is posted on the ESSB Web site in both English and French.
- 4.14 The Web sites of the schools and centres are maintained in both languages with the exception of documents of a pedagogical nature.
- 4.15 All of the administrative Information Technology (IT) applications are in French and may be made available in English upon request.
- 4.16 Selection procedures for the hiring of ESSB administrative personnel, especially for those who will be working with the public, contain measures to ensure the quality of English and French, both written and verbal.
- 4.17 The ESSB Linguistic Policy will be posted in both languages on the ESSB Web site.
- 4.18 The Administrative Council is responsible for ensuring that the ESSB Linguistic Policy is applied and will make recommendations for modifications to the policy as necessary.

This policy comes into force upon approval by the Council of Commissioners.