

In the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, the aboriginal language programs have been designed to provide students with:

- a general understanding of the aboriginal language
- a foundation of knowledge and skills that will enable students to communicate in the aboriginal language
- an understanding and appreciation of the language being studied as an expression of a distinctive culture.

The program's ultimate goal is to inspire students with pride in the aboriginal language, to motivate them to use the language to communicate in their daily lives, and to use the language as part of a living culture.

Non-aboriginal students enrolled in the aboriginal language program will enjoy the benefits of cross-cultural education. By learning about a culture that is different from their own, they will expand and enrich their view of the world and gain a better understanding of their own culture. At the same time, they will develop a deeper appreciation of and respect for the identity, rights and values of others.



Where the program is offered at the primary level, students attend for 20 minutes per day, with a focus on listening and speaking. In Grades 4-8, the classes are 40 minutes daily, with an equal focus on all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing). After the Grade 5 year, it is preferable that students entering the program have a background in the same language family.

The aboriginal language programs are taught by instructors fluent in the language they are teaching.



Language carries with it the spirit, culture, history and philosophy of a culture; defines the attitudes and values of a people; is the principal means to preserve and transmit culture from one generation to another.

Source: The Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8, Native Languages, Ministry of Education, 2001

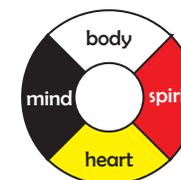
Frequently Asked Questions

Who can take aboriginal language programs?

The programs are available to all aboriginal and non-aboriginal students enrolled at Ridpath Public School and Lakefield Intermediate in Lakefield, North Shore Public School in Keene, and Roseneath Public School in Roseneath. They are available to other schools where numbers warrant and based on availability of staff. Students who study an aboriginal language at the elementary level may substitute that language for French at the secondary level. The only requirement is the desire to learn the aboriginal language and to develop a better understanding of aboriginal culture. A secondary school program is also offered at Lakefield District Secondary School in Lakefield.

Can my child take both aboriginal language and Core French?

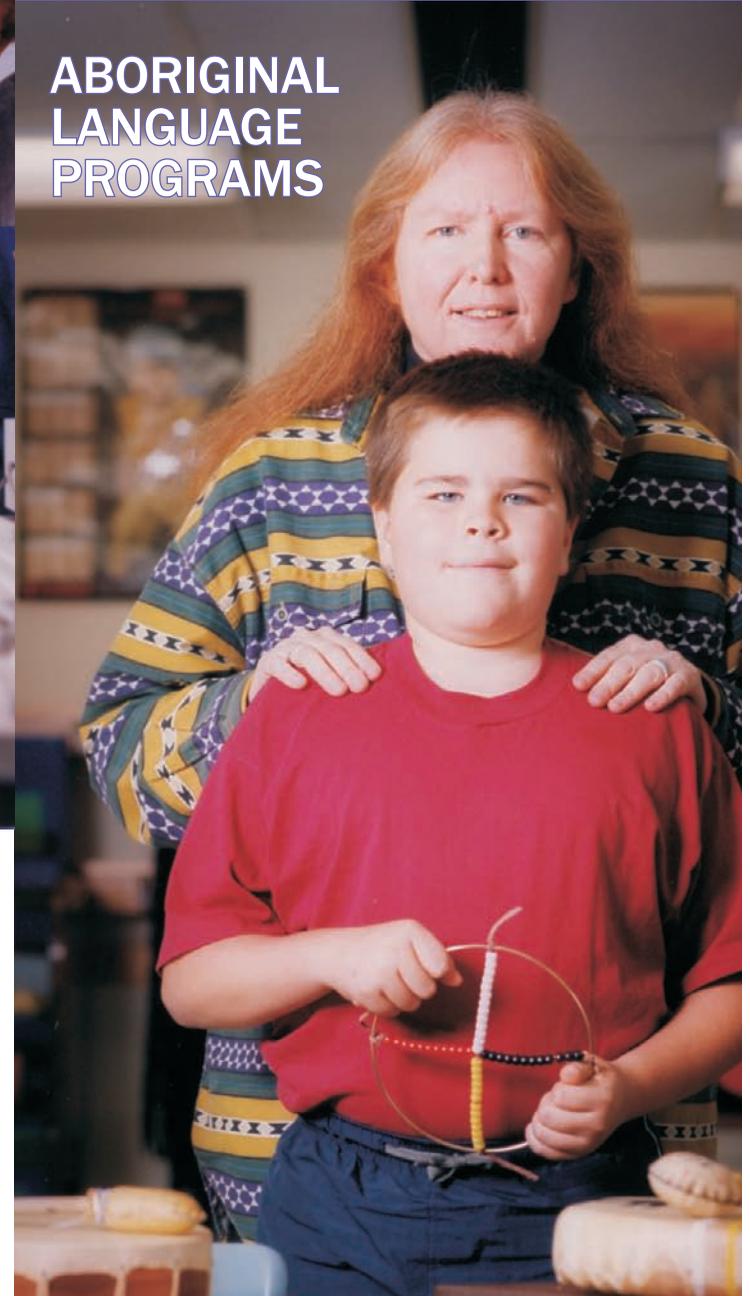
Students entering Grade 4 receive French instruction from Grades 4 - 8; however, students who are currently in an aboriginal program can be exempted from the French as a Second Language program beginning in Grade 4, following consultation with the principal. Parents at the schools offering the aboriginal language program have the option to choose Core French, the aboriginal language program or both for their children. Instruction in the aboriginal language is offered either at the same time as Core French or when another subject is offered.



ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS



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My child has been identified as a student with special needs. Can he still enrol in the aboriginal language program?

Yes. Teachers plan their programs keeping in mind the strengths and needs of all students, as well as any modifications and accommodations outlined in a student's Individual Education Plan. They can make changes to teaching approaches, curriculum content, assessment and evaluation of individual students, to ensure success for all students.

How can I help my child with her aboriginal studies at home?

You can start by establishing a good rapport with your child's teacher and by maintaining on-going communication. In this way, you will become familiar with the curriculum and will be able to help your child as effectively as possible. We welcome you to volunteer to help in the class.

At home, encourage your child to talk about her experiences at school, and show an interest in what she is doing. Provide your child with both encouragement and support. Listen while your child practises the language. Help with organization and study skills for assignments, projects and tests.



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