

SERVICES TO HELP YOUR CHILD

When your child first arrives at the school or school board administrative office, his or her knowledge of French will be assessed. Your child's math skills may also be tested, and he or she may be interviewed. You may be asked to provide information that will help the school principal understand your child's prior schooling and identify any services needed.

Among other things, the tests will help determine whether or not your child needs **welcoming and French learning support services** in order to attend school in French and successfully complete the various programs. Your child may receive these services in a regular class or in a special welcoming class for new arrivals, until he or she is able to cope

normally with instruction given in French in all subject areas.

Complementary educational services are also available in schools to provide support where necessary, and to help the students succeed. These services may be given by remedial teachers (often called resource teachers), speech therapists, psychoeducators or psychologists, for example.

Other services are also available: school transportation (certain conditions apply), daycare services or lunchtime supervision, catering or cafeteria meals, and so on. However, these additional services are not free. Your child's school will tell you which of these services it offers.

SERVICES FOR YOU TOO

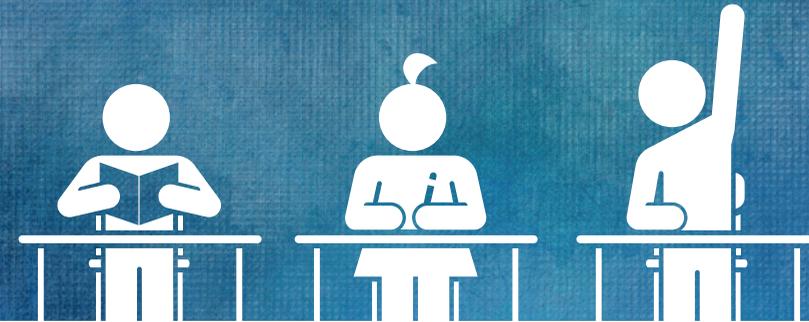
Adult general education offers a set of programs designed to meet the needs and expectations of people aged 16 or over on June 30 of the current year. It is dispensed by the school boards.

Francization services are available at adult education centres. These classes will help you to develop basic written and spoken French

language skills. They will make it easier for you to integrate into Québec society, and will prepare you for further education or to enter the labour market.

Lastly, all the school boards offer reception, referral, counselling and support services. They will help you to devise a training plan that meets your personal and professional goals.

INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANT PARENTS



WELCOME TO QUÉBEC AND ITS FRENCH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In Québec, 80% of the population is French-speaking, and French is the official language. Your children must therefore attend school in French until the end of their secondary studies.

School attendance is free and compulsory for all children between 6 and 16 years of age. The school year begins in late August or early September and normally ends in late June. Children attend school for at least 180 days each year.

Québec's Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur is responsible for the education system, and delegates the task of managing schools and organizing preschool, elementary and secondary educational services to the school boards. In all, there are 72 school boards in Québec.

LEVELS OF EDUCATION

Preschool education (under 6 years of age)

Preschool education, also known as “maternelle”, is available on a full-time basis (4 hours 15 minutes per day, from Monday to Friday) for children who have reached 5 years of age by September 30 of the current school year. In some areas, the school boards also offer “maternelle” classes for 4-year-olds.

Although it is not compulsory for children to attend “maternelle”, an estimated 98% of 5-year-olds are nevertheless enrolled. Among other things, “maternelle” provides children who do not speak French with an opportunity to begin learning the language, and also helps prepare them for elementary school.

Elementary education (6 to 12 years of age)

Elementary education is dispensed for five hours per day, from Monday to Friday, to children who are 6 years of age or older on September 30 of the current school year. Children normally attend elementary school for six years.

Secondary education (12 to 18 years of age)

Secondary education is dispensed for five hours per day, from Monday to Friday, to students who are generally between 12 and 18 years of age. Children normally attend secondary school for five years. The subjects taught during the first two years are virtually identical for all students. Beginning in the third year, however, different paths are available, depending on the students’ individual interests and aptitudes.

ENROLLING FOR SCHOOL

To enrol your child for school, you must first contact the school board responsible for the schools in the neighbourhood or town where you live. The school board will tell you what to do, and will provide information on the reception process and the names of the people you must contact in order to enrol your child, so that he or she can start school. To find the name of your local school board, go to www.education.gouv.qc.ca, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on “Find a School.” The search function is available in French only. You may, if you prefer, telephone the general information department of the Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur, using the following toll-free number: 1-866-747-6626.

When enrolling your child for school, you will be asked to provide a number of documents, including the originals of the following:

- Two proofs of your residential address (electricity invoice, telephone invoice, letter from the government, lease, etc.).
- If you are living with a family member or another person and do not have a proof of address, the person with whom you are living must complete a form and provide two documents showing his or her residential address.
- Your child’s birth certificate (translated into French or English).
- Up-to-date immigration documents.

The following documents, if you have them, will be helpful:

- a valid passport
- a document showing your child’s level of education (e.g. a school report card)
- your child’s health record
- specific assessments carried out by a psychologist or speech therapist, for example