

Scenarios

1. I am the principal of an elementary dual-track school i.e. the students can be in the French Immersion program or in the English program. I am very proud of my staff. Teachers are very professional and very committed to the successful learning of their students.

However, I have a problem when it comes to socializing with each other in the staff room. The French teachers and the English teachers do not mix very well. The French program teachers sit in one area of the staff room and the English teachers sit in another area. I feel like they are very cliquy. Furthermore, when a few French teachers are speaking French to each other and an English teacher enters the room, the French teachers continue speaking French and they ignore the presence of the Anglophone teacher.

Is this a normal situation in a dual-track school? What could I do as a principal to change the situation and encourage everyone to be part of one staff and to mix better with each other?

2. I know that my French Immersion teachers would benefit from attending workshops that are being provided for them.
 - a) What if I don't have the budget to help them pay for their subs?
 - b) What if, money permitting, my teachers still refuse to attend the offered workshops?
3. Whenever one of my French immersion teachers has difficulty with one of the students (behaviour, academic) I am asked to transfer this student to the English program. She doesn't know what to do with that student anymore – she tried everything. Her student hates French and doesn't want to be in French immersion anymore.

As an administrator, what can you do to help? Should you simply transfer the student to the English program? Any suggestions?

4. In my dual-track school I find it very hard to enhance French language opportunities. We are surrounded by an Anglophone environment and it is very difficult to provide occasions where the use of the French language will be encouraged.

Which strategies could be used to help students live French in an authentic way and recognize the advantages of learning French? Any recommendations?