



## **Parents: Did you know that Louisiana has a new law to empower you to establish world language immersion pathways in public schools?**

Act 361 of the 2013 Legislative Session creates a process whereby parents may petition their local school boards to create language immersion pathways if none are currently offered. Immersion simply means that the primary learning language in your child's classroom is French, Spanish, Chinese, or another language taught by a fluent speaker of the language. English Language Arts will be taught by an English teacher.

### **Why language immersion?**

- Students enrolled in language immersion demonstrate greater levels of proficiency in English language arts, higher overall academic achievement, and higher levels of self-esteem.
- Learning a second language has a positive effect on intellectual growth and increased awareness of diverse cultures through access to history, art, and literature.
- Students in language immersion pathways have been shown to demonstrate enhanced cognitive functions in solving complex pathways and mathematical computations through the development of higher order skills.
- French immersion pathways, in particular, provide a better understanding of the state's social traditions and serve to promote, preserve, and develop Louisiana's unique bilingual culture.
- Proficiency in a second language opens doors beyond K-12 education, particularly in an economy in which French, Spanish, Chinese, and other languages are in high demand.

### **How to make the request:**

- First, collect signatures from the parents of at least 25 children who will begin kindergarten at the start of the next school year.
- Then, submit the completed petition to your local school board office by March 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the school year which the pathway is to be established.
- Finally, notify the Department of Education of your request by calling 877-453-2721 or emailing [terri.hammatt@la.gov](mailto:terri.hammatt@la.gov). Department staff also can answer any questions you might have about this process and offer guidance.

### **What next?**

- Your school board will work with the Department of Education to ensure sure that certain conditions are met, per state law. Refer [here](#) to view the law.
  - You will be contacted by your school board office with any questions, and provided that that all legal conditions are met, your school board will notify you of next steps to establish the pathways for the next school year.
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## PARENT PETITION

**Immersion School Choice Law**  
**Act 361 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature**  
(Revised Statutes 17:273.3)

A local school board, if requested in writing by the parent or legal guardian of at least 25 students enrolled in kindergarten who reside within the jurisdictional boundaries of the school district, shall establish a world language immersion pathway for such students, provided certain requirements are met. JD :

### Primary Point of Contact:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>

<b>1</b>	<b>Parent/Guardian Name</b>	<b>Name of Child in Kindergarten</b>
<b>Street Address</b>		<b>Phone Number/Email Address</b>

By my signature below, I certify that I live within the jurisdictional boundaries of the \_\_\_\_\_ school district. I request that the \_\_\_\_\_ School Board establish a world language immersion pathway, and I commit to enrolling my child in the world language pathway.

Signature

X

<b>2</b>	<b>Parent/Guardian Name</b>	<b>Name of Child in Kindergarten</b>
<b>Street Address</b>		<b>Phone Number/Email Address</b>

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Return completed petitions to your local school board office no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the school year in which the pathway is to be established.



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