

**DSBN International Languages
Elementary Program Information
&
Frequently Asked Questions**



The DSBN is proud to implement the International Languages Elementary Program. The ILE program gives students the opportunity to learn a new language other than the English and French languages that are already offered in schools.

This program is funded by the Ministry of Education and is completely **free** of charge. Some classroom supplies may be provided, students may be asked to bring in some of their own supplies. If you are asked to pay a fee, please report this to the International Languages Elementary Program immediately through the link on the website.

The Ministry class size benchmark for ILE classes is set at 23 students in order for classes to operate. If a class does not meet the 23 student requirement, the students will be put on a waitlist and the registration volume will continue to be monitored.

The Ministry does not provide credit for any International Language Elementary class; they do not operate on a grade-by-grade basis and will always have a mix of ages and skill levels.

The Ministry requires that ILE classes must not exceed 2.5 hours weekly during the school year and no more than 2.5 hours daily during the summer program.

Registration into the ILE program needs to meet Ministry requirements:

- All registrations require an Ontario Education Number (OEN) – anyone who does not have an OEN can contact the ILE program through the link on the website to discuss registration options
- During the school year students in year 1 ELKP (JK) to grade 8 must be enrolled and attend a publicly funded elementary or private school.
- Summer ILE classes are open to students going into year 2 ELKP (SK) to grade 8. If a student does not start first year ELKP until the following September or has graduated grade 8 in June before the summer program, then they are not eligible to participate.

ILE program school year classes follow a condensed version of the regular school calendar. Classes will run weekly except for the week before winter break, winter and March breaks, and the week before the Easter holiday weekend. The ILE summer program runs during the month of July. Schedules may be adjusted from time to time as needed.

The ILE program class days and locations will be determined by school and instructor availability. Classes will be subject to change times, days and locations yearly.

During the school year there may be times the ILE program will initiate changes to classes due to inclement weather. When the DSBN schools are closed, the ILE program will also be closed, and classes will be cancelled. If DSBN schools remain open, depending on the ongoing weather conditions, a decision will be made regarding ILE evening or weekend classes. Classes will either remain in person or move to a virtual classroom. Every effort will be made to ensure decisions are made in a timely manner. Communication will be sent out by Instructors to students **only** if there is a change in schedule.

It is the expectation that all participating students in the DSBN ILE program adhere to the DSBN's code of conduct which can be found here:

<https://www.dsbm.org/about/policies/dsbm-code-of-conduct>

The ILE program must adhere to the Community Use of Schools permit rules and regulations. Any staff, student or community member that does not adhere to the permit rules will jeopardize the ILE program's ability to continue holding classes in a DSBM school. Gymnasiums and other areas of the school will **not** be available to any community members during class time.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for the ILE program?

- For the regular school year:
 - ILE classes are for any student registered in year 1 ELKP (JK) to grade 8.
- For summer classes:
 - Students that have not started school during the previous regular school year are not eligible to participate until they begin in the following September (e.g. if a student does not start year 1 ELKP (JK) until the September after the summer program, then the student is not eligible to participate in the summer program).
 - Students who have graduated grade 8 in June are not eligible to participate in the summer program. After graduation in June a student is eligible to participate in secondary summer school.

Is there a cost to attend the ILE program?

- The Ministry of Education funds the ILE program based on registrations.
- The ILE program is free to any students enrolled.
- If you are asked to pay any fees, please let us know by sending an email through the link on the ILE program website.

What is the schedule/calendar for the ILE program?

- The ILE program follows a condensed version of the DSBN school year calendar and during the month of July for the summer program.
- Classes run on weekday nights and Saturday mornings during the school year and in the mornings during the summer program.
- Classes are dependent on registration numbers and qualified instructors.

- Classes are 2.5 hours weekly during the school year and 2.5 hours daily during the summer program.
- Classes **do not** run during the winter and March breaks or a statutory holiday.
- Classes **do** run on PA days.

What locations are classes held in?

- Class locations are dependent on Community School Use availability.
 - Classes are in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.
 - Classes run out of Secondary School locations.

What happens during inclement weather?

- The ILE program follows the direction of the DSBN.
 - If schools are closed, ILE classes are cancelled.
 - If buses are cancelled, but schools remain open, ILE classes will still run, a decision will be made if classes will run in person or virtually.
 - Any decision to change classes due to inclement weather will be communicated as early as possible. Please note you will **only** receive communication if there are changes.
 - Please check the local news outlets and social media for updates on closures.

Does my child already need to speak the language we are registering for?

- Students are not required to have a background in a language to enroll.
- Instructors will assess and place the students in the appropriate class.

What if my child has a health issue and requires medication?

- Please make sure to note any health concerns or allergies on the registration.
- Before classes begin, a medical form will be emailed to you to print and fill in. Please bring it with you on the first day of classes.
 - Any medications that might be needed during class times will need to be shown to the instructors on the first day of classes.

Can a student register for more than one language?

- Yes, if it is a different language and runs on a different day.
- Please fill in a separate registration form for each student in each language.
- Note: students can only register for different languages, they cannot register for the same language on a different day.

Can I register after registration closes?

- If you have missed the registration, please send an email to inquire about late registration through the email link on the ILE program website. Availability for late registration is not guaranteed.
- It is encouraged that you register early to ensure your child's placement in a class, once a class is full students will be placed on a waitlist.

I haven't heard from the ILE Program since registering, is my child registered?

- The instructors will send communication out to students with the class details before classes begin.
- If you do not hear from an instructor and you know classes have begun, please send an email through the link on the ILE program

website with your students' details, there may be an issue with your registration which could include:

- The registration was not submitted.
- The registration was not completed properly and could not be processed.
- There is a waitlist for the language you registered for.

I wish there was a language offered, but it does not show on the registration form, can it be added to the list of language classes offered?

- **YES**, we can look into adding more language options, please email your request through the link on the ILE program website.
- New languages are subject to the same requirements:
 - A minimum of 23 students register for the language.
 - Availability of a qualified instructor to lead the class.

Is there extra support for my child with special needs during the 2.5 hour class time?

- The Ministry of Education does not provide additional funding for additional staff to assist during the short class time.
- Each classroom has a ratio of 1 Instructor to approximately 23-25 students.
- Please contact the ILE program Coordinator by sending an email through the link on the ILE Program website to discuss options for supporting your child.