

General Overview

In accordance with R.S. 17:273.2, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (SBESE) has developed and implemented a process to designate world language immersion programs that consistently meet the criteria listed below as “Certified World Language Immersion Education Sites”.

- A. Adherence to state guidelines governing the minimum time of daily instruction in the immersion language.
- B. High quality immersion language time.
- C. Protection of the written and oral forms of the immersion language as the exclusive language of communication within immersion teaching time.
- D. Evidence of immersion language teaching throughout content area teaching time.
- E. Immersion language teachers who possess native-like fluency in the immersion language.
- F. Articulated professional development on best practices for immersion teachers, English-speaking team teachers, and school administrators.
- G. Provision of student remediation, as needed, in the immersion language.
- H. Articulation, or planned articulation, throughout the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels of education.
- I. Visibility and recognition of the immersion language throughout the school.
- J. Written policies regarding entry into and exit from the language immersion setting.

Objectives of State Certification

The purpose of state certification for immersion learning sites is to provide statewide standards for immersion learning and to assist and support schools and school districts in establishing and maintaining high quality, highly effective world language learning education.

All immersion schools, public or private, are eligible to apply for state certification by following the process outlined here.

Process

Application

1. Signed application for Certified World Language Immersion Site
2. Teaching schedules for each immersion educator
3. Evaluation questionnaire from each language immersion teacher at the site
4. Evaluation questionnaire from each ELA team teacher at the site
5. Evaluation questionnaire from the school principal
6. One (1) Louisiana Certified World Language Immersion Site Visit Rubric

Note: All questionnaires provide space for detailed explanation and/or examples of actions. Applicants are encouraged to be as thorough as possible.

Audit Site Visit

1. Auditors and school principal (or his/her representative) meet officially to begin site visit. Auditors sign the Impartiality Oath on the Visit Validation Form at this time.
2. Auditors visit school site.
3. Upon leaving campus, the Visit Validation Form/Closure of Visit section is signed by auditors and the school principal (or his/her representative).
4. Additional site visits are scheduled if the auditors determine they are necessary.

Audit Findings and Report

1. Auditors verify the Louisiana Certified World Language Immersion Site Visit Rubric.
2. Auditors organize a meeting with the principal to offer a final evaluation of school's certification application, indicating strong and weak points. A final score of 80% of the total number of points possible designates a state-certified world language immersion learning site.

Designation

All Certified World Language Immersion Sites will receive permission to use the designated logo on all school-based communication (letterhead, e-mails signature lines, etc.) Certified World Language Immersion Sites will be published on the Louisiana Department of Education Website.