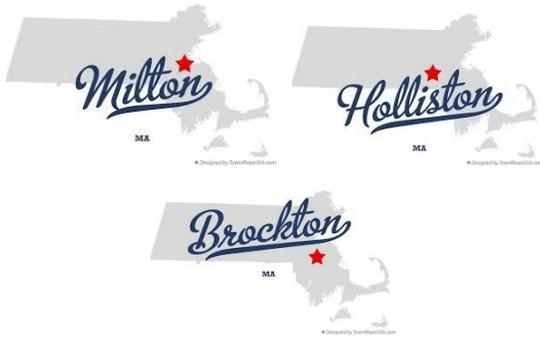




French Immersion: The Basics, The Benefits, and How It Works

French Immersion, by definition, is a form of bilingual education in which students whose first language isn't French receive their education in French.



Currently, there are three French Immersion programs in New England: one in Milton, MA, one in Brockton, MA and one in Holliston, MA.

Immersion programs began in Canada in the 1960s, and there are currently about French Immersion Programs 40 in the US

How It Works

- Starting in kindergarten, students spend all day getting instruction almost exclusively in French. They are allowed to speak English as needed, but are encouraged to speak French

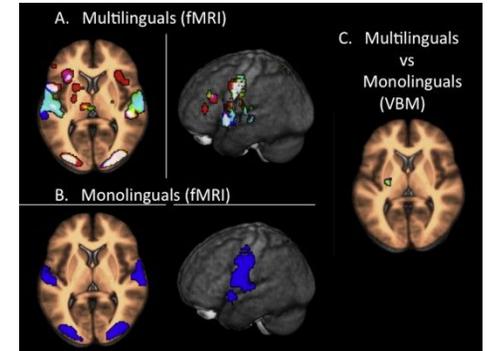


- Starting in November of first grade, students are only allowed to speak in French. They learn all of the same subjects non-FI students learn (math, science, writing, etc), just in French.
- From third to fifth grade, students spend half their day in French and half in English. In French class, they are learning history, reading, writing and culture.
- During elementary school, students in Immersion attend a Writing Enrichment class several times a week to ensure that their English writing and spelling is still on track.
- In middle school and high school, students are only in French for one period a day, however, they are typically nearing fluency by that time.

*based off of the Holliston, MA model

The Benefits of French Immersion

- The younger a child is when they start immersion, the more likely it is that they will gain native-like proficiency.
- Children who learn a second language gain problem solving skills, have higher levels of executive function, and have better memory skills.



- It has been shown that being bilingual can help protect against cognitive decline and diseases such as Alzheimer's.
- Research has shown that children in immersion programs are more empathetic and have better global cultural awareness.
- Additionally, language fluency opens the door for many types of employment, both domestic and international