

Second Language Survey Report

February 2018

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Background and Process:

In the spring of 2017, the Surrey Board of Education initiated a consultation process with its parent community to better understand parental preference for second language learning. The purpose of the consultation was to assist the Board in long-range planning for sustainable second language programs. To accomplish this task, a Second Languages Working Group was formed, consisting of participants from the School District and the community.

The Second Languages Working Group was comprised of representative individuals that have been engaged in conversations about second language programs in the district. This included representatives from the Punjabi Language Education Association, representatives from Canadian Parents for French, a District Language Helping Teacher, an Elementary and a Secondary Principal, two Directors of Instruction, a Trustee from the Board of Education, representatives from the District Parent Advisory Council, and a parent at-large. Other organizations that operate language schools in the district were also invited to participate in the Working Group, but did not send a representative. The Second Languages Working Group was chaired by the Director of Instruction for Continuous Learning. It began meeting in the spring of 2017 and met numerous times into November 2017.

The Second Languages Working group designed a survey intended to collect parent input on which second language they would prefer their child learn in grades 5-8. The second language options included in the survey were those outlined in the British Columbia Ministry of Education's *Education Program Guide Order*. The survey was distributed to parents of students in grades 2, 3 and 4, and was available for public response between October 2-13, 2017. Parents had the option of completing either an online version, or a paper version, of the survey.

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Survey Data:

Total number of responses to survey:

8442 responses

(includes 926 online responses)

Total number of students in the group to be surveyed:

15918 students

Survey Data: Language Preferences

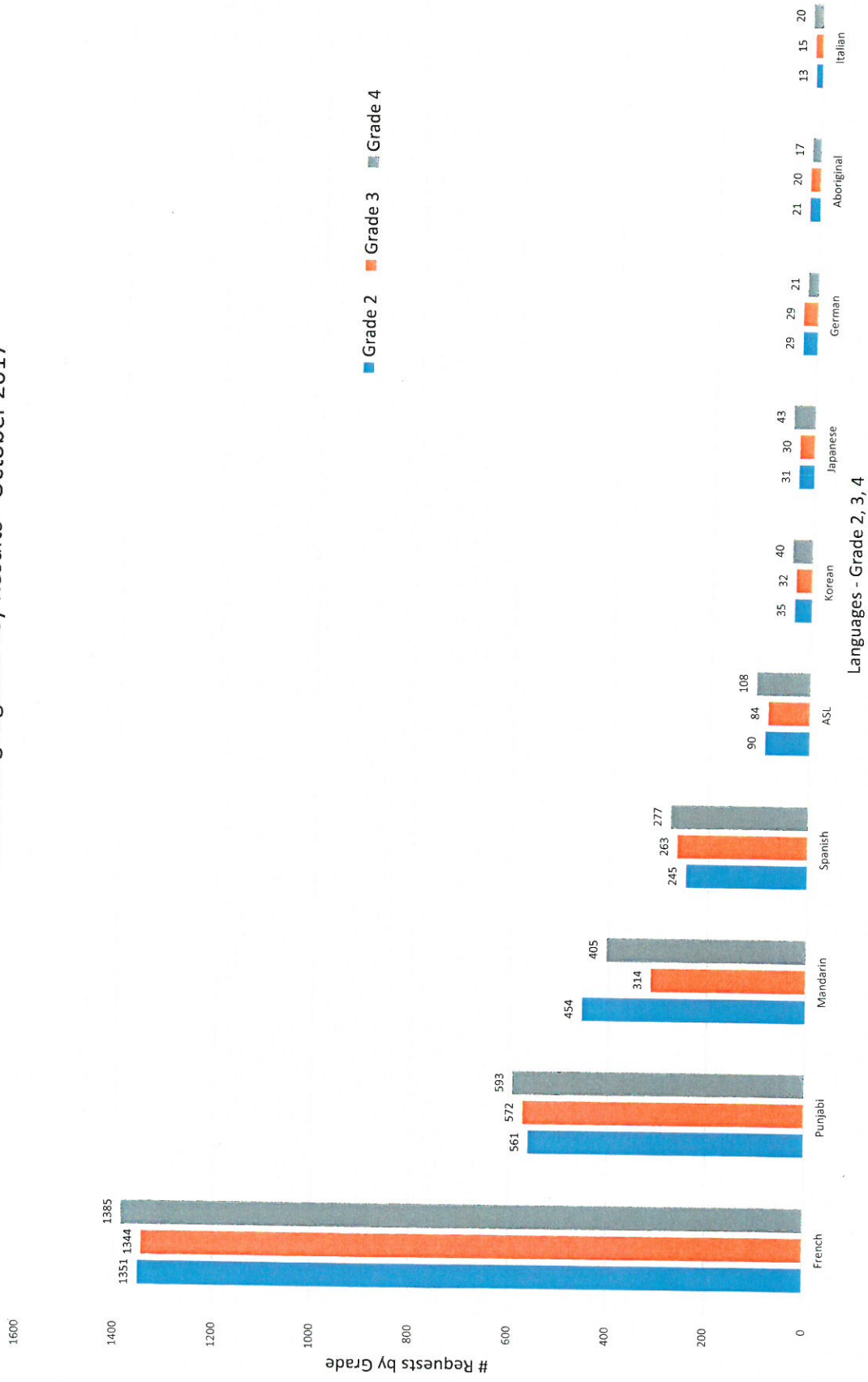
Survey respondents were asked to indicate which one of the following Ministry-approved second language options they would like to see offered at their school. (Options: French, Punjabi, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, German, Spanish, Italian, approved Aboriginal Language, American Sign Language)

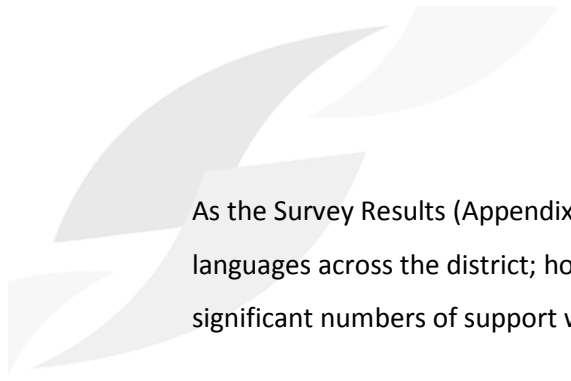
As the graph below illustrates, parents responding to the survey most often selected one of four languages as the second language of choice for their children. The languages chosen with greatest frequency were French, Punjabi, Mandarin, and Spanish.

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Surrey Schools – Continuous Learning 14033 92nd Avenue, Surrey, BC, V3V 0B7
Tel: (604) 595-6077 Fax: (604) 595-6076 www.surreyschools.ca

Second Language Survey Results - October 2017





As the Survey Results (Appendix B) indicate, there were individual preferences for different second languages across the district; however, French, Punjabi, and Mandarin were the languages that had significant numbers of support within specific schools.

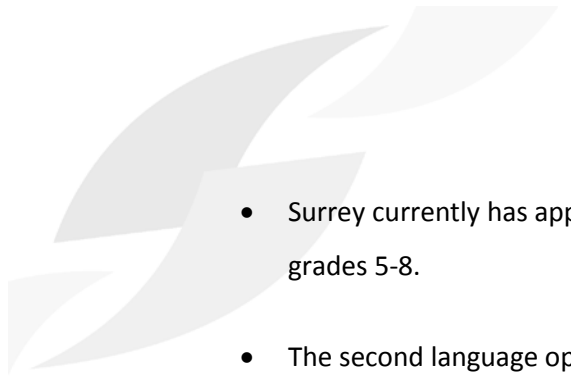
Parents were also asked to choose from a list of reasons describing why they thought it was important for their children to learn another language.

Responses	Parent Reasons for Wanting Second Language Learning
3854	To enhance career opportunities
3121	To increase understanding of other cultures
3024	To be able to communicate in a second language while travelling
2660	To be able to communicate with friends and family who don't speak English
2581	To be able to communicate in both official languages
2522	To be able to improve cognitive skills and overall brain function
2246	To develop an appreciation of learning languages
2204	To learn how to read and write in the family's language

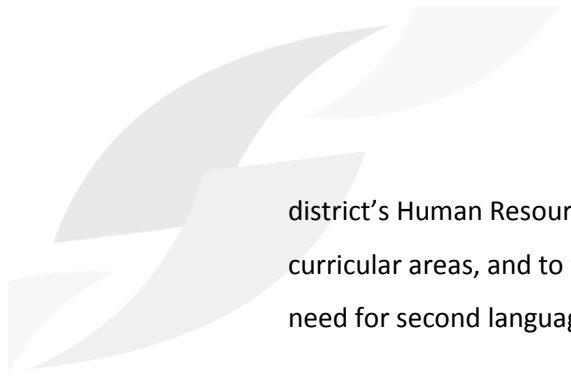
Emerging Themes

- It is clear from the respondents that parents in Surrey place great value on learning an additional language(s).
- Surrey currently has approximately 325 students learning Punjabi as a second language in grades 5-8.

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- Surrey currently has approximately 19 400 students learning French as a second language in grades 5-8.
 - The second language options most often selected by respondents are French, Punjabi, Mandarin, and Spanish.
 - While the desire for second language learning is common across the district, it often does not manifest itself in significant numbers of requests for a specific language at a specific school. When looking at particular schools, it is often the case that there is a significant diversity of expressed language preference.
 - Spanish is the additional language of choice identified by a significant number of parents of students in grades 2, 3, and 4 across the district. However, this demand does not show up in concentrated numbers to warrant further analysis at any single elementary school.
 - The response from parents at some schools with existing Punjabi Language programs indicates a potential decline in parents preferring that second language option for their children.
 - Respondents most often indicate that the reasons they want their children to learn another language is to enhance career opportunities, to increase understanding of other cultures, to be able to communicate in a second language while travelling, and to be able to communicate with friends and family who do not speak English.
 - A number of respondents emphasized the importance of teaching both of Canada's official languages in school.
 - A number of respondents emphasized that languages offered as options should be reflective of the community that individual schools serve.
 - The difficulty in finding qualified teachers for second language programs must be considered. Teacher candidates who are bilingual are sometimes available, however this is not sufficient. It is important to have individuals who have the requisite training in second language acquisition. An awareness of this difficulty was also reflected in some of the responses to the survey. The

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district's Human Resources Department continues to work to recruit qualified teachers for all curricular areas, and to work with local university teacher education programs to highlight the need for second language teachers.

- Parents at Erma Stephenson and Fraser Wood Elementary schools indicate a desire to include the learning of the Mandarin language in their schools. These 2 schools already have fully subscribed Intensive French Programs. The high request for Mandarin in these schools warrants further analysis, however, based on the number of grade 6 and 7 students in the school, adding a third language option into the schools would present numerous challenges.
- In addition to the survey on second language options, there was a question asked in relation to interest in Late French Immersion, and one related to interest in Intensive French. The responses to these questions indicate support for these options. As the focus of this report is second language options in grades 5-8, it does not comment further on these results here. However, this information can be considered in the analysis of waitlists and demand for Programs of Choice and Focus Programs.

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Points for Consideration by the Board

Survey results indicate that there are a few schools where a significant number of parents prefer a specific second language option for their children other than the one currently offered. Second language classes come from existing students within a school, so any new classes must not result in a school organization that requires additional divisions. There must also be significant interest amongst parents of students in grades 2, 3 and 4 to predict sustainability of a second language program at a particular school. The results of the survey indicate a need to collect further information and consider the second language offering at some of our sites. These sites are:

Punjabi

Chimney Hill

T.E. Scott

Mandarin

Walnut Road

Chantrell Creek

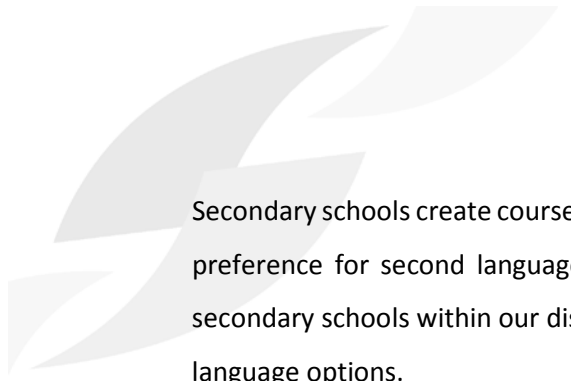
Any potential increase in second language programs must be managed carefully to ensure quality programming.

The model used for French as a second language is not the same as that being used for Punjabi as a second language learning in our schools. District staff should continue to assess the viability of continuing with two different models, or whether a common model for all second language learning opportunities is recommended.

Like most jurisdictions within BC, Surrey continues to experience significant difficulty in hiring qualified teachers for a range of programs. Any expansion of second language programs should include considering the feasibility of hiring and retaining qualified teachers.

The District continues to offer a wide range of Summer Learning opportunities across many curricular areas. While options have included second language classes at the senior secondary level in the past, it might be possible to introduce second language summer classes beginning at grade 8.

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Secondary schools create course schedules based upon student requests. The information about parental preference for second language options that has been gleaned from this survey can be shared with secondary schools within our district. Secondary schools may look at their ability to offer further second language options.

District staff could consult with the Katzie First Nation and Semiahmoo First Nation regarding how the district can support Local Aboriginal Language learning.

District staff should continue to monitor the consistency and quality of Second Language Programs. The consistency and quality is dependent upon our ability to recruit and support qualified teachers.

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Appendix A

Survey

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Surrey Schools – Continuous Learning 14033 92nd Avenue, Surrey, BC, V3V 0B7
Tel: (604) 595-6077 **Fax:** (604) 595-6076 www.surreyschools.ca

Second Language Survey for Parents of students in Grades 2, 3, 4

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Surrey Board of Education values second language learning as well as the opportunities that parents have for choice in their student's educational programs. Whether French, Punjabi, Spanish, Japanese, or Mandarin, our district offers a range of opportunities, particularly at the secondary school level. We wanted to gather more information and background from parents on your opinions on our offerings. We hope that you will take the time to complete this survey so that we can adjust our programming as needed and feasible in an attempt to meet the requests of our community.

Background

The British Columbia Ministry of Education requires that students learn a second language in Grades 5 through 8. Core French is offered in all of our schools, but the Board of Education may decide to also offer other languages, in addition to French. [Ministry's Language Education Policy](#).

We are reaching out to parents and guardians to learn more about parental preference for second language learning. This survey will assist the school district in long-range planning for second language offerings.

Instructions

Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and send the form to languagesurvey@surreyschools.ca or alternatively, complete a paper copy and return to your school by **October 13, 2017**. This survey was developed by a Second Languages Working Group, consisting of district staff, school staff, and community members, and includes the language options outlined by the Ministry of Education. Results of the survey will be collated into a Second Languages Report and presented to the Surrey Board of Education at a public meeting.

While your address is requested, your responses will remain confidential. Please complete one survey per family. Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey.

1. What is your address?

2. Which Surrey elementary school does your child currently attend?

3. What grade(s) is your child currently attending? ☐ Grade 2 ☐ Grade 3 ☐ Grade 4

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4. Please indicate which **one** of the following Ministry approved second language options you would like to see offered at your school. [Ministry's Language Education Policy](#).

<input type="checkbox"/> French	<input type="checkbox"/> Punjabi	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese
<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> German	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/> Italian
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Aboriginal Language	<input type="checkbox"/> American Sign Language		

5. Is there a language other than the above listed Ministry approved languages that you might be interested in your child learning?

6. Parents often cite many reasons for their children to learn another language. Please indicate your top four with a check mark:

<input type="checkbox"/>	To be able to communicate with friends and family who do not speak English
<input type="checkbox"/>	To learn how to read and write in the family's language
<input type="checkbox"/>	To be able to communicate in a second language while travelling
<input type="checkbox"/>	To increase understanding of other cultures
<input type="checkbox"/>	To enhance career opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/>	To develop an appreciation of learning languages
<input type="checkbox"/>	To be able to communicate in both official languages
<input type="checkbox"/>	To be able to improve cognitive skills and overall brain function
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="text"/>

7. Would you like to be able to enroll your child in [Late French Immersion](#) in Grade 6? Yes/No ☐

8. Would you like to be able to enroll your child in [Intensive French](#) in Grade 6 ? Yes/No ☐

If you have any additional comments please add in the space below...

Please return paper copies to the school or complete online by October 13th

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Appendix B

Survey Results

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Second Language Survey 2017				Responses As a Percentage of Total Number of Students
School	Total # Grade 2-4 Students	Student Responses To Survey		
A.H.P. Matthew	154	99	64%	45%
A.J. McLellan	186	83	43%	60%
Adams Road	222	133	60%	79%
Bayridge	114	90	79%	25%
Bear Creek	192	48	25%	76%
Beaver Creek	189	144	76%	62%
Berkshire Park	153	95	62%	38%
Betty Huff	157	59	38%	56%
Bonaccord	184	103	56%	50%
Bothwell	74	37	50%	55%
Boundary Park	109	60	55%	48%
Bridgeview	52	25	48%	68%
Brookside	136	92	68%	69%
Cambridge	258	177	69%	46%
Cedar Hills	127	59	46%	95%
Chantrell Creek	125	119	95%	52%
Chimney Hill	269	139	52%	63%
Cindrich	176	110	63%	43%
Clayton	101	43	43%	62%
Cloverdale Traditional	86	53	62%	58%
Coast Meridian	101	59	58%	58%
Colebrook	86	50	58%	56%
Cougar Creek	142	80	56%	56%
Coyote Creek	224	126	56%	62%
Creekside	125	78	62%	60%
Crescent Park	129	59	46%	60%
David Brankin	176	106	60%	82%
Dogwood	144	118	82%	38%
Don Christian	137	38	28%	66%
Dr. F.D. Sinclair	208	137	66%	67%
East Kensington	6	4	67%	49%
Ellendale	49	24	49%	95%
Erma Stephenson	174	165	95%	34%
Forsyth Road	120	41	34%	78%
Fraser Wood	195	153	78%	69%
Frost Road	228	157	69%	65%
George Greenaway	178	115	65%	62%
Georges Vanier	205	128	62%	64%
Goldstone Park	282	180	64%	58%
Green Timbers	213	124	58%	62%
H.T. Thrift	100	62	62%	31%
Hall's Prairie	54	17	31%	

French	Punjabi	Mandarin	Japanese	Korean	German	Spanish	Italian	Aboriginal	ASL
2 3 4	2 3 4	2 3 4	2 3 4	2 3 4	2 3 4	2 3 4	2 3 4	2 3 4	2 3 4
12 13 23	3 5 11	2 1 6				3 3 11			2 3 4
15 15 9	6 3 5	2	2			5 7 4		1	2 3
38 22 19	3 6 5	1 3 3	1 1	1	1 1	4 7 9	1		3 4 1
10 16 15	1 1 1	9 15 10	1	1 1	1 2	4 2			2 2 2
6 6 12	4 3 7	1 1 2				5			1
20 19 12	20 19 11	9 15 10				4 3 1		1	
12 12 24	4 5 6	8 3 7	1 1			3 3			2 1 3
8 6 18	10 1 8	1 1 2				2		2	
18 18 25	3 4 3	8 2 3				3 3			1 2 4
8 5 5	1 2 1	5 1 3	1	1 1	1 2	2 4 1	1	1	1
11 9 11	5 5 2	4	1			1			1 1 3
3 1 6	2 2 2	5 1				1 4			
8 18 8	9 13 13	3 3 2	1			3 3 3			1 1 2
25 31 26	11 11 6	8 8 9	1 2 3	1	1 1	8 8 8		1	3 3 3
10 12 5	4 5 11	32 18 24	2			3 2 2			1 1
16 16 24	28 11 24	1				4 3 6		1 1	1 1 1
16 19 24	9 20 13	6 1			1	1 3			1 1 1
10 6 4	1 1 1				1	2 1 2			1 2
5 8 6	11 3 13	1 2 2			1 1	2 2 3			1 1
3 8 9	3 8 9	1 2		2 1	1 1	2 3			1 1
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16 16 13	9 13 6	9 4 5		1	1	1 3 1		1	1 1
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11 14 15	7 2 1					3 1		1 1	1 1
15 5 2	19 24 16					3 1 3			1 2
18 20 25						4 4 3			1
3 1						2 2 2	1		1 1
3 5 3	2 3 4	42 28 27	1 1	1	1	7 3 3		1	1
17 12 19	2 3 4	4 1 1	1 2	2		2 1			1 1
5 7 6	2 2 1	28 22 25	2	1 2 2		4 4 3		1	
14 27 15	1 2	19 10 8	1	2 6	2	2 2 2			
21 26 46	3 4	1 3 2		1		1			
22 20 26	4 6 13	1	1			2 1		3	1 1 1
25 30 17	13 16 15	4 5 6		2 1		6 2 3			1 1 2
30 36 33	13 20 14	4 1	1			4 2 3	1		3 2
12 12 17	27 21 14	9 4 6	2	1	1	2 4 2			
11 9 11						3 1			
2 2 3		2 1						1	2

Second Language Survey 2017				Responses As a Percentage of Total Number of Students
School	Total # Grade 2-4 Students	Student Responses To Survey		
Harold Bishop	153	88		58%
Hazelgrove	280	164		59%
Henry Bose	117	51		44%
Hillcrest	224	116		52%
Hjorth Road	100	40		40%
Holly	185	97		52%
Hyland	140	69		49%
J.T. Brown	114	64		56%
James Ardiel	171	67		39%
Janice Churchill	97	49		51%
Jessie Lee	128	52		41%
K.B. Woodward	227	141		62%
Katzie	379	200		53%
Kennedy Trail	109	45		41%
Kirkbide	144	69		48%
Laronde	177	14		8%
Latimer Road	182	90		49%
Lena Shaw	196	67		34%
M.B. Sanford	171	87		51%
Maple Green	152	82		54%
Martha Currie	231	70		30%
Martha Jane Norris	163	81		50%
Mary Jane Shannon	128	76		59%
McLeod Road Traditional	72	49		68%
Morgan	172	89		52%
Mountainview Montessori	131	68		52%
Newton	182	93		51%
North Ridge	139	70		50%
Ocean Cliff	142	94		66%
Old Yale Road	162	105		65%
Pacific Heights	149	82		55%
Panorama Park	162	112		69%
Peace Arch	203	46		23%
Port Kells	53	39		74%
Prince Charles	120	49		41%
Ray Shepherd	95	68		72%
Riverdale	187	37		20%
Rosemary Hts	191	23		12%
Royal Heights	75	35		47%
Semiahmo Trail	141	69		49%
Senator Reid	121	66		55%
Serpentine Heights	130	60		46%

French	Punjabi				Mandarin				Japanese				Korean				German				Spanish				Italian				Aboriginal				ASL																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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Appendix C

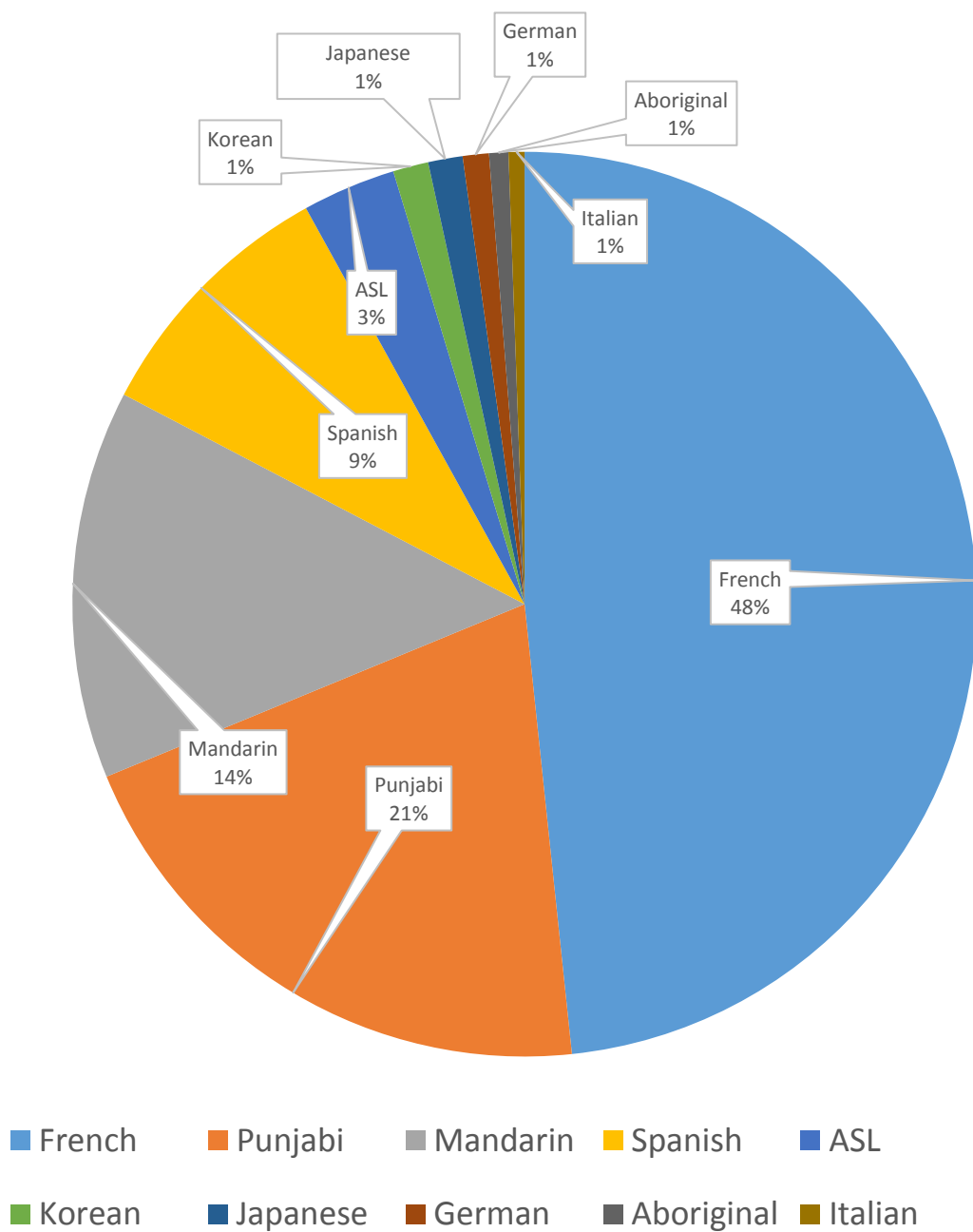
Survey Graph

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Second Language Survey Results - October 2017

Preferred Second Language Responses as a Percentage of Total Responses to Survey



The percent shown alongside each language represents the percent of total survey respondents selecting that particular language as their preferred second language option. For example: 48% of all respondents to the survey selected French as their preferred second language option.