Advocacy Checklist for Parents

Here is a checklist that can be used by parents whose students are in danger of losing their French program and who are seeking support.

_____ 1. Encourage your child to get involved by becoming an advocate for the French program, if appropriate.

_____ 2. Contact other parents, community members, local or state-level business people with connections to the French-speaking community to rally support for the French program.

_____ 3. Contact other parents to organize meetings, and to create petitions to administer electronically through a web-based program or social media, and to raise general awareness of the situation.

_____ 4. Contact local, state, and national world language associations for aid, ideas, and support. Find your area AATF chapter and its officers here.

_____ 5. Consult resources available in the AATF French Advocacy Resource Bank.

_____ 6. Create materials (brochures, flyers, e-mail messages) that provide reasons to study French. Distribute this information within the community. You'll find resources on the Resource Bank.

_____ 7. Contact your school council or PTA/PTO for support.

_____ 8. Present your case to the administration and/or school board. Consider including your student in this presentation.

_____ 9. Write letters to the editor of your local newspapers. This can be a very powerful tool.

_____ 10. Contact the local press to inform the public of your campaign.

_____ 11. Create a webpage, social networking page, or blog to communicate or publicize your situation. Your children can help, when appropriate.

You, as a parent, are very powerful.
You pay taxes and vote in School Board elections.

Remember:

_____ 1. Address concerns in a positive and constructive manner.

_____ 2. Seek solutions.

_____ 3. Be proactive! Do not hesitate to say something because you think you are alone in wanting to see the French program continue. It’s likely that others are thinking the same thing!

_____ 4. Learning French is a valuable part of your child’s education! Act NOW to preserve the program.