

INFOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

Policy and Legislation Changes Affecting
English-Language Education in Quebec

Based on a presentation by Me. Marion Sandilands,
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at the CARE Conference, Sept. 25-26, 2024 in Montreal, Quebec

Since 2020,
Quebec introduced
three waves of
legislative changes
affecting English-
language education.

Wave 1

2020

BILL 40

Primary/Secondary Education

Restructuring of School Boards:

- School service centres replace school boards

English School Boards Remain in Place:

- English school boards challenged Bill 40 in court on constitutional grounds
- A stay was granted to prevent its enforcement in the English system
- Constitutional challenge successful at trial
- In April 2025, Quebec Court of Appeal suspended Bill 40 permanently in the English system on constitutional grounds; an appeal at the Supreme Court of Canada is still possible

Wave 2

2022

LAW 14 (BILL 96)

CEGEP/College +
Primary/Secondary Education

CEGEP Measures:

- Legal designation as English-language institutions for the first time
- Registrations at English-language institutions are capped at 17.5% of the total CEGEP/college student population
- Priority given to students with a certificate of eligibility¹ for English schools
- New requirement to take more courses in French

Primary and Secondary School Measures:

- No renewals on temporary 3-year eligibility permits for international students
- Internal and external school communications now primarily in French
 - This element was challenged in court and granted a stay

Key Terms

Stay: temporarily prevents a law from taking effect while it is under legal review

Information last updated in May 2025

Wave 3

2023

TUITION POLICY CHANGES

University Education

International Student Requirements:

- Tuition increases for some international students at English-language universities
- Bill 74 (adopted in 2024) gives the provincial government authority over decisions related to managing international student applications

Exemptions Granted:

- Exemptions possible, mostly for French and Belgian students
- Partial exemption from some of these measures granted to Bishop's University

Out-of-Province Students:

- Tuition increases for out-of-province students
- French learning requirements to ensure that 80% of students meet level 5 oral proficiency

Tuition Changes Challenged:

- Concordia and McGill universities challenged the tuition changes in court
- They were denied stays and the new tuition policy for out-of-province students took effect in Fall 2024
- In April 2025, Quebec's Superior Court struck down the tuition hikes and French proficiency requirement for out-of-province students for both universities

= The court upheld the government's authority to change the funding framework for international student fees
=The Quebec government can appeal the decision

References and Additional Resources

¹ Québec, Ministère de l'Éducation, "Eligibility for Instruction in English," n.d. education.gouv.qc.ca/en/contenus-communs/parents-and-guardians/instruction-in-english/eligibility.

- Learn more about the CARE Conference: gesba.qc.ca/en/communiqués-presse/care-conference-september-25-26-2024/
- Bill 40 information for parents: epcaquebec.org/for-parents/bill-40-explained/
- Law 14 impact for CEGEP students: dawsoncollege.qc.ca/admissions/bill-96-law-14-what-does-it-mean-for-you/
- Understanding tuition fees increase (for university students): concordia.ca/students/financial/tuition-fees/rates/2024-changes.html

Infographic designed by Amanda Argento