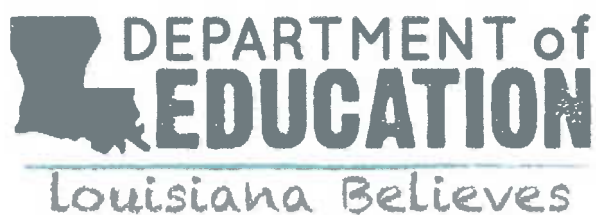




MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE,
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR
ET DE LA RECHERCHE



EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT 2016-2020

Between the Academy of Martinique
and
the State of Louisiana, the Department of Education of Louisiana, the CODOFIL
(Office of Francophone Affairs), the CODOFIL Consortium of Louisiana Colleges
and Universities

with the presence and support of
The Consulate General of France in Louisiana



EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This agreement is made between:

The Academy of Martinique, represented by Béatrice Cormier, Rector of the Academy,
Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Academic Director of Education Services,

and

the State of Louisiana represented by Lieutenant Governor, William Billy Nungesser and State
Superintendent of Education, John White,
the CODOFIL (Office of Francophone Affairs), represented by the President, William Arceneaux,
the CODOFIL Consortium of Louisiana Colleges and Universities, represented by the President,
Susan Spillman,

With the support and presence of The Consulate General of France in Louisiana based in New
Orleans, represented by the Consul General of France, Gregor Trumel.

Considering the importance of developing and organizing partnership actions in the field of
educational cooperation between institutions, educators and students of the French Overseas
Department of Martinique, on the one hand, and the American state of Louisiana, on the other
hand, in a favorable context of geographic, historical, cultural and linguistic proximity,

It was agreed that:

Article 1: Purpose

This agreement aims to clarify the scope and objectives of the actions of educational
cooperation referred to in Article 2 and the commitments and resources provided by each
signatory to support these actions.

Article 2: Scope

2.1. Physical and virtual mobility of teachers and students

Both parties set objectives for making more robust student and teacher exchange between the two institutions. They affirm their common will to develop "learning mobility," both physical and virtual, for students at all levels of the K-16 system.

For this to happen, both parties agree to promote partnerships between schools and teaching teams that develop language immersion residency programs abroad for students at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary level. At the primary level, these residency programs will be organized based on the French *classe de découverte*¹ model and will benefit from the support of a team of bilingual teachers. At the secondary and post-secondary levels, they will take the form of school trips or internships for which the methods of organization will refer to specific regulations in the education system of both parties.

To enhance the authentic use of language, both parties will promote virtual exchanges through information and communications technology. This virtual mobility will allow teachers as well as students to prepare their physical mobility project, to remain in touch during their stay abroad, and to sustain the exchanges. This virtual mobility may also be carried out in other instructional areas as determined by the specific demands and the area of expertise of teachers who may wish to participate within both institutions.

2.2. Perfecting teacher language skills

Local regulations permitting, this agreement encompasses position-for-position exchanges, whether for a short term or a full school year.

Priority will be given to language teachers. In Martinique, these exchanges will fall under the *poste-pour-poste* (position-for-position) exchange program already implemented in France by the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, in collaboration with Canadian departments of Education and school systems.

The *Escadrille Louisiane* program, in agreement with the Academy and the ESPE of Martinique, Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, and CODOFIL, will enable future teachers to benefit from the program in Martinique and TAPIF and to be trained simultaneously by the Martinique ESPE and Centenary College of Shreveport. The program may be extended to any university wishing to develop similar initiatives in line with CODOFIL, the Academy and the ESPE Martinique.

This special relationship will also allow the two parties to envision the establishment of mutual training programs or second language certification programs. This framework of exchanges will open a dialog on instructional methodology as well as the exchange or even collaborative creation of instructional materials to be made available to all schools.

¹ During a *classe de découverte*, a teacher and his/her students live on an out-of-school-campus site (typically, seaside, countryside, or in the mountains) for a period of several weeks during which they cover their regular curriculum but are also involved in thematic learning activities in collaboration with local professionals.

Martinique students will have the opportunity to receive instruction provided by English-speaking teachers, and vice versa, Louisiana students will receive instruction in French provided by a French-speaking teacher. The strength of their common Creole culture and identity will also be a major asset in these partnerships.

At the primary and secondary levels, teachers will be offered one-year professional exchanges based on the position-for-position exchange program modalities as described above.

At the secondary and post-secondary levels, additional professional stays of short duration will be encouraged and facilitated for language teachers as well as for teachers of non-linguistic subjects.

The services of the Academy of Martinique and those of the Consulate of France in New Orleans will promote these exchange programs with educational authorities, centralize the application process and match institutions with complementary profiles, all in an effort to facilitate the development of joint projects.

Through these partnerships, participants on both sides will access a different culture, but one with common historical roots, while young people of the same age group will benefit from linguistic exchanges.

2.3. English and French assistants

University students from Louisiana and Martinique will be encouraged to apply for language assistant positions in the partner region, as per the existing regulation.

American foreign language education majors in Louisiana universities will be invited to request assignments as an English language assistant in a school of the Academy of Martinique. Martinique university students will as well be invited to apply for the position of a French *Assistant de Langue* (linguistic assistant) in a Louisiana school.

University students of other disciplines (science, economics, social and political sciences, sports, etc.) and possessing a sufficient level of competence in the second language will also be encouraged to be candidates for such positions in the partner region.

2.4. Initial and continuing training of teachers

The ESPE and the Academy of Martinique as well as the authorities and educational institutions and universities in Louisiana, agree to pursue and develop projects supportive to teacher pre-service and in-service training in both territories.

2.5. Professional training

As part of workplace training programs for students in Martinique BTS or in Bac Pro, a program

to promote the integration of these young trainees in Louisiana enterprises will be considered. The same initiatives will be considered on the Louisiana side to benefit students in school to career pathways.

Collaboration will be encouraged between the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and the university departments that offer professional and technical education in Louisiana and their Martinique counterparts. A call for applications for partnerships between institutions could determine specific projects to undertake within this agreement. In Louisiana, several important clusters are to be considered for the development of teaching French for specific objectives: tourism and hospitality, petrochemical industry, and business.

Educational institutions at the vocational and/or the higher education level of Martinique and Louisiana could partner to facilitate the mobility of their students and the development of any project related to their training or research programs.

Article 3: Contributions of the signatories

The six signatories of this agreement express their support of the cooperation described in Article 2 by mobilizing structures and the following personnel:

3.1. The Academy of Martinique:

- mobilizes the education authority services competent in the areas of primary, secondary, and post baccalaureate education, information and guidance for students and international relations, according to local educational authority;
- organizes in conjunction with local authorities, exchange programs and twinning of schools, classes, pupils and teachers;
- implements the means necessary to facilitate information for Martinique students about the possibility and availability of studies and curricula in Louisiana university programs, and information on the existence of aid and/or scholarships;

3.2. CODOFIL (Office of Francophone Affairs), the Consortium of Louisiana Colleges and Universities and the Louisiana Department of Education:

- encourage relevant services and partners to support, implement and evaluate the above interactions;
- promote the teaching of French in local primary, secondary and post-secondary institutions, as well as the pre-service and in-service training of teachers of French and French immersion;
- allocate the necessary means to facilitate information for students and families about the availability of studies and curricula in Martinique university programs, and information on available scholarships;

3.3. The Consulate General of France in Louisiana:

- monitors and facilitates the implementation of educational cooperation actions in the framework of this Convention, in close liaison with the Rector of the Academy of Martinique and the involved Louisiana authorities;
- ensures consistency of such activities and their alignment with all of those conducted as part of the embassy action plan and other partners (including local authorities) for regional cooperation;
- supports, as far as possible, mobility between the two territories through grants, scholarships, and allocation of regional cooperation funds.

Article 4: Responsibility and monitoring of the agreement

The Rector of the Academy of Martinique, the Superintendent of the Department of Education of Louisiana, the Director of CODOFIL, and the Consul General of France in Louisiana are responsible for the execution of this Agreement.

A monitoring committee composed of the signatories to this Agreement or their designees will meet at least once-a-year to assess activities. This assessment will generate proposals of additional concrete actions to further the development of the Convention.

Article 6: Amendment and Termination

This Agreement may be amended by endorsement freely negotiated between the parties. The agreement may be terminated at the initiative of either party by written three-month notice. The termination shall not prejudice the fulfillment of the outstanding activities at the date of its implementation.

Article 7: Duration

The term of this agreement will be 4 years from the date of signature of the parties. At the end of this agreement, the terms of its renewal will be discussed with all the parties who will decide whether it should be renewed or not. In the case of non-renewal, that party will send a letter of non-renewal 30 days before the expiration date of the agreement to the other party.

Signed in Baton Rouge, on May 17th 2016
(One original copy for each signatory)

For the Academy of Martinique, the Rector of
Academy, Chancellor of the University, Academic
Director of Education Services,

The stamp is circular with the text 'ACADEMIE DE LA MARTINIQUE' around the top edge and a small star at the bottom. Inside the circle, it reads 'RECTORAT', 'RECTRICE', 'SCHÆLCHER', and '97279 CEDEX'.

Béatrice Cormier

For the State of Louisiana,
The Lieutenant Governor


William Billy Nungesser

With the support and presence of the General
Consulate of France in Louisiana,
the Consul General of France,


Grégor TRUMEL

For the State Department of Education,
The Superintendent John White


Erin Bendily, Assistant Superintendent

For the CODOFIL (Office of Francophone Affairs)
The President


William Arceneaux

For the CODOFIL Consortium of Louisiana
Colleges and Universities
The President


Susan Spillman