

Memorandum of Understanding
between
The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction /
The North Carolina State Board of Education, USA
and
la Région Académique Grand Est, France

BACKGROUND AND RESOLUTION

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction / North Carolina State Board of Education ("NCDPI/SBE") and the Région Académique Grand Est ("RAGE"):

- Recognize the importance that the English and French languages carry as a means of communication between individuals as well as countries, and of the valuable role they play in the exchange of ideas in the fields of economy, international business, geography, global diplomacy, history, science, society and culture;
- Are driven by the same desire to strengthen ties between the citizens of their respective communities and to cooperate in the efforts that both agencies are exerting to design the educational model of this millennium and the future, of which interculturalism and intercultural competence will be essential elements; and
- Are conscious of the possibilities that the collaboration of both agencies can offer to the field of education.

Therefore, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby signed in due form and agreeing to the contents established in the following Agreements:

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish the terms of cooperation on the development of a range of joint educational activities in order to:

- a. Support the teaching and learning of their respective languages and cultures;
- b. Promote a better knowledge and understanding of their respective educational systems;
- c. Provide professional growth opportunities to teachers of North Carolina and the Région Académique Grand Est;
- d. Establish collaboration between teachers and encourage their teaming through common projects; and
- e. Facilitate language learning opportunities for students, including short-term educational exchanges.

The programs in this Memorandum of Understanding shall apply to all levels of education, K-12, under the domain of the signatories of this partnership agreement.

Under the terms of this MOU the highest level of quality in academic areas and education is sought after for the students involved, both in English as well as in French programs.

Respect for existing programs in both regions is a prerequisite.

II. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

The parties acknowledge that no funds have been allocated for these programs. Accordingly, these programs will be available as resources allow.

II.1 Connections between schools

The NCDPI/SBE and the RAGE will create a process for connecting schools (partner schools, Internet-based exchanges, etc.) around specific pedagogical projects, sharing resources or findings, creating teaching materials, or other activities covering all subject areas, both academic and non-academic or technical. The individual schools will be responsible for carrying out the projects.

II.2 Teacher and administrator exchanges

NCDPI/SBE and the RAGE agree to develop procedures for the implementation of short-term and one-year exchange programs for North Carolina teachers of French and French teachers of English from the Région Académique Grand Est from different levels of schooling. Other fields of studies (other than French or World Languages and especially Arts Education, Career and Technical Education, Character Education, Computer Science, Economics and Financial Literacy, Guidance, Health Education, Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, and Social Studies) and educational administrators will be included in these programs or other exchange seminars. At the discretion of the North Carolina local education agencies (LEAs) or districts and charter schools, these exchanges may involve a third-party organization for obtaining visas, liability coverage, medical coverage, etc. For exchanges involving French teachers coming to North Carolina, the third-party organization must meet the requirements for an Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor as established by the U.S. Department of State.

II.3 Language assistants

Student teaching assistants of both English and French from each region (Région Académique Grand Est and North Carolina) are encouraged to be candidates for similar posts in the partner region according to the regulations of each region.

II.4 Language training for students

The NCDPI/SBE and RAGE agree to facilitate the stay of students in institutions of North Carolina and the Région Académique Grand Est (individually or in small groups) and develop activities to promote general education, as well as technical or professional education as available and appropriate. At the discretion of the North Carolina local education agencies (LEAs) or districts and charter schools, student exchanges may involve a third-party organization that specializes in arranging international exchange and has been approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) or an equivalent mutually-agreed upon organization based in France. These may include:

II.4.1

Individual short-term exchanges (two weeks to three months) for students within the domain of the signatory parties during the school year and during the holidays.

II.4.2

Virtual exchanges between schools whereas teachers and students within the domains of the signatory parties are encouraged to collaborate on combined projects using videoconferencing where technically possible.

Objectives: To promote better language skills and enable students to increase their experience and intercultural skills to gain a better understanding of the world around them.

II.5 Global recognitions and networking

II.5.1

The NCDPI/SBE and the RAGE will collaborate in the development of the network of English/French bilingual schools recognized with LabelFrancÉducation, a seal of quality for bilingual education, granted by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with any interested schools and/or districts in North Carolina that have earned the Global-Ready School and/or Global-Ready District designations and/or have established Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), or Baccalauréat Français International (BFI) programs.

II.5.2

The NCDPI/SBE and the RAGE will collaborate in the development of the network of any interested schools that have students earning language recognitions or awards in English and French such as the Global Languages Endorsement (GLE), North Carolina's Seal of Biliteracy or the "Baccalauréat Français International" (BFI) and "mention européenne" for the French baccalauréat. This could include proctor training on, and access to, the DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) and DALF (Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française) assessments that can be used to meet the World Language requirement for the GLE.

II.5.3

The NCDPI/SBE and the RAGE will collaborate in the development of the network of any interested educators that have earned or are pursuing the Global Educator Digital Badge (GEDB) in North Carolina or a similar recognition or professional development certificate in France.

Objectives: To enable the continued implementation of high quality bilingual and international education and to support the exchange of ideas and curricular resources for the benefit and recognition of individuals, programs, and schools.

II.6 Professional Development

NCDPI/SBE and the RAGE agree:

II.6.1

To allow teachers, administrators, and other educational personnel in each partner region to participate in seminars on pedagogy, methodology, or other fields of interest, by means of new technologies or with a trainer going to each partner region with the objective of disseminating information on teaching practices to a wide range of teachers in each region.

II.6.2

To promote reflection on jointly chosen themes through study groups (think tanks) held once or twice a year in each region with an exchange of results or findings.

II.6.3

To encourage the development of programs for current or preservice teachers and administrators, such as: teacher mentoring, teacher teaming, class observation, etc.

Objectives: To improve the quality of education and encourage the exchange of information, knowledge, and educational expertise of common interest to both parties for the benefit of all. In

order to reduce the costs and multiply the number of trainers, these activities will be based on new technologies (Internet exchanges, video conferencing, etc.) as much as possible.

III. EVALUATION

III.1

Annually, representatives of the NCDPI/SBE and the RAGE will assess and report on the progress regarding the implementation of this program. This report may propose changes and improvements, if necessary.

A copy of this annual report will be sent to the French Cultural Services at the Embassy of France in Washington, as well as to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and to the RAGE.

III.2

The NCDPI/SBE and the RAGE agree that representatives of both administrations will evaluate the programs that are the subject of this Memorandum at meetings, which will take place virtually using new technologies or on-site alternatively in one region or the other.

IV. DURATION

IV.1

The term of this MOU will be four (4) years, beginning on the date of signing by parties. At the end of the agreement, terms of renewal will be discussed unless either party desires that the agreement should not be renewed. In that case, that party shall forward a letter of non-renewal 30 days prior to the date of expiration to the other party.

IV.2

This MOU may be terminated by either the NCDPI/SBE or the RAGE if such a decision is reported to the other signatory by written notice six (6) months in advance.

IV.3

During the time the MOU is in effect, both parties being in agreement may execute addenda that improve its effectiveness.


IV.4

Unless otherwise stipulated, any addendum to this MOU will take effect when signed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction / State Board of Education and the RAGE.

This MOU is equally valid in North Carolina and in the Région Académique Grand Est.


Signed at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh on April 24, 2025

Representing the North Carolina Department of
Public Instruction




Maurice Green
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Representing the Région Académique Grand
Est



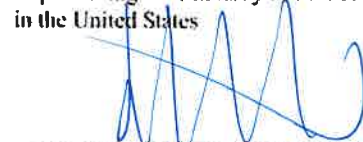
Pierre-François Mourier
Recteur de la région académique Grand Est,
Recteur de l'académie de Nancy-Metz,
Chancelier des Universités

Representing the North Carolina
State Board of Education



Eric Davis
State Board of Education Chair

Representing the Embassy of France
in the United States



Mohamed Bouabdallah
Conseiller Culturel