

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION (USA)**

L'ACADEMIE D'AIX-MARSEILLE (FRANCE)

THE EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN THE UNITED STATES



Memorandum of Understanding

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Embassy of France partnered to develop a cooperative educational program by signing a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2005. The agreement between France and Wisconsin was established in order to encourage student and teacher exchanges, promote new pedagogical practices, expand the international dimension in teaching and professional development in France and the U.S., and to improve the partners' educational systems.

I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

To implement this general Memorandum of Understanding, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI) and the Académie d'Aix-Marseille agree to develop the following areas of cooperation:

1.1 Teacher Exchanges

The WDPI and the Académie will develop short-term and one-year exchange programs for Wisconsin teachers of French and French teachers of English. Other content areas and administrators may be included in these programs or other exchange seminars. Funding will be provided jointly by the WDPI, the Académie, the participants, and their school unit. The WDPI and the Académie will also support schools in need of teachers with bilingual skills by facilitating the hiring of teachers from abroad.

1.2 Teacher Training Connections

The WDPI and the Académie will work with the IUFM (University Institute of Teacher Training) of Aix-Marseille and Wisconsin teacher training institutions to exchange information on teacher training and to develop programs for summer teacher development, certification of language proficiency, and student teaching abroad.

1.2.1 The WDPI and the Académie will encourage programs for teachers in training (pre-service) to teach their native language as teaching assistants, observe classes, and study and live abroad. Both WDPI and the Académie will seek placement for teachers-in-training in schools in their region for these purposes.

1.2.2 The WDPI and the Académie will encourage programs for current teachers (in-service) to improve their second language proficiency and knowledge of the culture of the partner region.

1.3 Connections between Schools and Classrooms

The WDPI and the Académie will create a process for connecting schools around specific projects, such as sharing resources or creating materials for teaching French and English as well as other subject areas, both academic and non-academic or technical. The individual schools will be responsible for carrying out these connecting projects.

1.4 Student Exchanges

The WDPI and the Académie will facilitate student stays in France and in the U.S., in school and home settings. The purpose of such student exchanges will be to promote cultural understanding, second language acquisition, and further knowledge in various subject areas.

1.5 International Internships

The WDPI and the Académie will facilitate the connection of their technical institutions to arrange international internships. In addition, the WDPI and the Académie will work to develop links with businesses that have existing ties connecting France and Wisconsin.

1.6 Arts and Sports Exchanges

The WDPI and the Académie will cooperate with arts and sports organizations and assist them in arranging exchanges.

1.7 Visits by Recteur and State Superintendent

Each government will secure funding for a visit by the head of the state/region's education agency to plan implementation of this MOU.

1.8 Reciprocity

The WDPI and the Académie will make all effort to ensure as much as possible an equal number of participants in these programs.

II. EVALUATION

2.1 Annually, representatives of the WDPI and the Académie will develop a report relative to the application of this program. This report will suggest proposals for improvement. A copy of this annual report will be sent to the French Cultural Services at the Consulate of France in Chicago, to the Recteur of l'Académie d'Aix-Marseille, and to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

2.2 The WDPI and the Académie accept that specialists and supervisors of both administrations will evaluate the development of the initiatives which are the object of this Memorandum through related visits and will accept the results which are obtained at any time.

III. DURATION

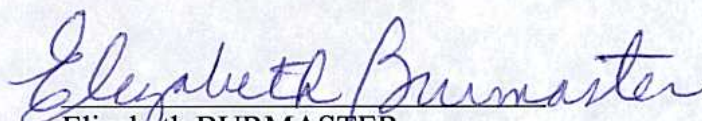
3.1 The term of this MOU will be four (4) years, beginning on the date of last execution by parties. At the end of the agreement, terms of renewal will be discussed unless either party desires that the agreement should not be renewed. In that case, that party shall forward a letter of non-renewal 30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

- 3.2 This MOU may be terminated by either the WDPI or the Académie if such a decision is reported to the other signatory by written notice six (6) months in advance.
- 3.3 During the time the MOU is in effect, both parties being in agreement may execute Addenda that improve its effectiveness.
- 3.4 Unless otherwise stipulated, any addendum to this MOU will take effect when signed by the WDPI and the Académie.

This MOU is equally valid in the State of Wisconsin and in the Académie d'Aix-Marseille.


Signed in Madison, Wisconsin, on the 19th day of April, 2006.

For the Wisconsin Department
of Public Instruction




Elizabeth BURMASTER
State Superintendent

For the Académie of Aix-Marseille



Jean-Paul de GAUDEMAR, Recteur
Chancelier des Universités de l'académie

For the Embassy of France in the U.S.,
representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and the Ministry of National Education



Yannick MERCOYROL
Cultural Attaché
Consulate General of France in Chicago