



# **Memorandum of Understanding Between The Delaware Department of Education, USA And L'Académie de Créteil, France**

## **BACKGROUND AND RESOLUTION**

The Delaware Department of Education and the Académie de Créteil:

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, science 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 new millennium, of which interculturalism will be an essential element;

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 educators in the State of Delaware and the Académie de Créteil;
- d. Promote an international dialogue on key pedagogical issues related to the teaching of languages and cultures to all types of learners;
- e. Establish collaboration between teachers and students and encourage their teaming through common project.

These programs will concern all levels of education from elementary school to the university. As universities are autonomous in both areas, the universities will be informed of the existence of the programs promoted by this MOU.

In all plans and programs subject to the MOU, high quality academic standards will be held for students in English as well as in French.

Alignment with curriculum and programs in force in both countries is a pre-requisite. This agreement is in accordance with all legislation and regulation concerning personnel and students in both locations (Delaware and Académie de Créteil).

## **II. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS**

### **II.1 Connections between Schools, Classrooms and Students**

The Department of Education and the Académie de Créteil will create a process for connecting schools, classrooms and students (twin schools, internet-based exchanges, videoconferencing, etc.) around specific curriculum-based 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 and classrooms will be responsible for carrying out these projects.

### **II.2 Educator Professional Development**



To improve the quality of education and encourage the exchange of information, knowledge and educational expertise of common interest for the benefit of all, the Department of Education and the Académie de Créteil agree:

II.2.1 To allow teachers, school 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 one professional development provider going to each partner region with the objective of disseminating information on teaching practices to a wide range of teachers or educators in each region.

II.2.2 To promote reflection and collegial sharing on themes or topics jointly chosen through virtual professional learning communities established by teachers or educators in the partnering regions.

II.2.3 To encourage programs, such as teacher mentoring, teacher teaming or class observation for teachers or student teachers.

### **II.3 Student Linguistic and Vocational Training**

To encourage higher levels of language proficiency and to enable students to develop intercultural professional experience and abilities to acquire a better understanding of the global society in which they live, the Department of Education and the Académie de Créteil agree to facilitate students' stays in the Académie de Créteil and in Delaware schools for individual or small groups and develop activities for the promotion of vocational or technical education in schools.

### **II.4 Language Assistants**

University students in each region (Delaware and the Académie de Créteil) will be encouraged to apply for assistantships for positions under provisions created between institutions in each region.

## **III. EVALUATION**

III.1. Annually, representatives from the Department of Education and the Académie de Créteil will assess the progressive implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and write a report. 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, D.C., to the Delaware Department of Education and the Académie de Créteil.

III.2 The Department of Education and the Académie de Créteil agree that representatives of both administrations will evaluate the programs which are the subject of this Memorandum of Understanding at meetings, which will take place alternatively in one region or the other.



#### IV. DURATION

IV.1. The term of this MOU will be for 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 Delaware Department of Education of the Académie de Créteil if such a decision is reported to the other signatory by written notice six (6) months in advance.

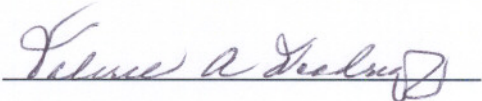
IV.3 During the time the MOU is in effect, both parties being in agreement may execute addenda that improve its effectiveness.

IV.4. Unless otherwise stipulated, any addendum to this MOU will take effect when signed by the Delaware Department of Education and the Académie de Créteil.

This MOU is signed in English and in French and is equally valid in the State of Delaware and in the Académie de Créteil.

Signed in Newark, Delaware, on the 5th day of June, 2008.

**Representing the Delaware  
Department of Education**



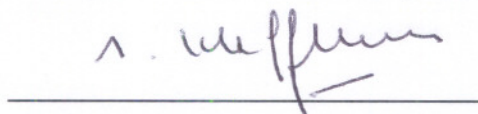
**Valerie A. Woodruff  
Secretary of Education**

**Representing the Académie de  
Créteil**



**Jean-Michel Blanquer  
Recteur de l'Académie  
Chancelier des Universités**

**Representing the French Embassy in the USA**



**Michel Schaffhauser  
Consul général de France à Washington**