



RÉGION ACADÉMIQUE
GRAND EST

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



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AND

THE ACADEMIE OF STRASBOURG

Background

The Académie of Strasbourg and the Indiana Department of Education renew the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Indianapolis on 1st July 2005. The new Memorandum of Agreement will be valid beginning on 1st July 2017 for a period of 4 years.

Since 2005, more than fifteen schools have been partnered and have developed beneficial and multifaceted exchanges, beneficial to both teachers and students. Several are utilizing the Internet as the main form of exchange and others have hosted in-person reciprocal visits. All of the exchanges foster innovations in teaching practices at the partner schools and contribute to the development of an international and intercultural dimension in teaching and professional development and to the teaching and impact of the partner's language in Indiana as well as in the Académie of Strasbourg.

Not only do these exchanges foster a deeper understanding of each other, they also contribute to advocacy between the partners for learning each other's language and culture. An additional significant benefit is that learning the language of the partner is not treated as an end in itself, but as a key asset that opens the door to international interaction in order to better prepare our youth for the global realities in the workplace, as well as their future mobility as global citizen.

All of these exchanges contribute to a mutually beneficial relationship that the partners wish to extend and further develop in various ways.

General Principles

1. The two partners commit to continue advocating for the teaching of each other's language. This world language teaching can aspire to include immersive experiences for students in schools in Indiana or in Alsace, experiences whose duration can vary according to projects and goals that are pursued.
2. The undersigned commit to furthering innovative learning and teaching strategies, in particular regarding the teaching of world languages, by making use of technology such as e-mailing, video conferencing, Skype or the use of e-learning platforms. Therefore, through common pedagogical projects, school partners will be able to exchange, share ideas and open up to a more global vision. Partners are convinced that virtual mobility precedes and strengthens physical exchanges. Virtual interactions can pave the way for in-person mobility and encourage technology-enhanced pedagogical practices in the classroom.
3. The undersigned commit, as in the past, to promoting the exchange programs between schools involving students, teachers, teacher trainers and principals and to supporting all activities that contribute to building mutually beneficial international exchange and

education relationships, especially for individual and group mobility of students for various durations of time.

4. The Indiana Department of Education and the Académie of Strasbourg commit to fostering the professional development of the partners' world language teachers, or other disciplines as appropriate, through immersive learning experiences and participation and/or auditing of courses in institutions of higher education and interaction with teachers of world languages or other academic or vocational/technical curricular areas. Each of the partners (individual participating school districts or institutional partners, including Indiana Department of Education and the Académie of Strasbourg) may finance the travel and lodging expenses related to the professional development training opportunities for their personnel, the training itself will be provided by the partner (Indiana Department of Education and the Académie of Strasbourg and collaborating institutions and schools as appropriate). Each partner will organize their own training. Each partner (school) may be tasked to identify the most favorable lodging for visiting exchange teachers and will help to organize an appropriate schedule for their exchange visit. These professional development exchanges can be organized on a reciprocal basis as a means of fostering sustainable partnerships.
5. The Indiana Department of Education and the Académie of Strasbourg agree to organizing study visits for education leaders in order to foster mutual growth and understanding of each others' education system, from pre-school through high school. These study visits will include conferences, site visits, and forums with key leaders in the fields of education and business.
6. The two partners may participate in an exchange of elementary school teachers for one year which can be renewed once under the framework of existing exchange programs.

First Year Objectives

Above all, the main objective is to develop the cooperation of the relationship between our two entities through the use technology as the cornerstone of improved teaching and learning projects and more frequent interacting. Its main goals read as follows:

- Sustain virtual mobility to pave the way for in-person mobility
- Support existing school-to-school partnerships and develop new sustainable school-to-school partnerships, from primary school to high school
- Encourage physical exchanges and reciprocal hosting of teachers and students by families in partner school communities, whether groups or individuals
- Initiate students' individual cultural and language immersion for a couple of months
- Share best practices in teaching and international education including beneficial partnerships with global businesses and international organizations
- Initiate internships for students with the existing network of local companies

The objectives will be evaluated at the end of the first year to identify impact on student and teacher engagement and proficiencies and subsequent year programs will be mutually agreed upon.

All of the suggested programs are subject to each of the partners' ability to secure the necessary funding resources.

The follow-up, continuing communication, and evaluation required for a successful partnership will be provided on an ongoing basis by the staff responsible for international relations to the two institutions. The foundation of mutual trust and friendship and countless connections that have been created during the course of these last four years together with the commitment on the part of the principal partners provide a positive framework for the full success of this renewed Memorandum of Agreement.


Signed in Strasbourg on 30/08/2017

Signed in Indianapolis, Indiana on 30/08/2017

Representing the Académie de Strasbourg
Education

Sophie Béjean

**Rectrice de l'académie de Strasbourg
Chancelière des universités d'Alsace**



Representing the Indiana Department of

Jennifer McCormick

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction