

# Highly Qualified Immersion Teachers: The Louisiana Experience

October 17, 2008



## Louisiana Constitution of 1974 Article XII, Section 4

- ◆ *“The right of the people to preserve, foster and promote their respective historic, linguistic and cultural origins is recognized.”*



## Louisiana’s French Language Instruction: Appraisal and Recommendations, Preamble, 1983

- ◆ *“We believe that the multi-lingual heritage of this great State shall be preserved and nurtured ultimately to gain for Louisianians a principal role among states in meeting this nation’s demands for international status in diplomacy, business, and commerce.”*



## Pedagogical Team

- ◆ CODOFIL
- ◆ Foreign Government Partners (France, French-Speaking Community of Belgium)
- ◆ Louisiana Universities
- ◆ Foreign Language Supervisors & Teachers



## Immersion Programs Goals

- ◆ To develop proficiency so that students can communicate in French about age-appropriate topics
- ◆ To perform as well or better than monolingual students in all areas of the curriculum
- ◆ To acquire greater knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of cultures



## French Immersion Enrollment

◆ 1991	405	2000	2,168
◆ 1992	711	2001	2,069
◆ 1993	841	2002	2,226
◆ 1994	845	2003	2,420
◆ 1995	1,070	2004	2,618
◆ 1996	1,287	2005	2,795
◆ 1997	1,623	2006	2,381
◆ 1998	1,838	2007	2,755
◆ 1999	2,058		



## French Teachers

- ◆ Louisiana Teachers
- ◆ Foreign Associate Teachers (FATs)



## Foreign Associate Teachers

- ◆ U.S. Dept. of State Exchange Visitor Program
- ◆ H1B teachers
- ◆ Permanent Residents



## Teacher Training

- ◆ Orientation Session (J-1 visa holders)
- ◆ Fall Inservice (pre-K through 12)
- ◆ Louisiana Consortium of Immersion Schools (Fall & Spring)
- ◆ Video Conferences



## Stagiaires

- ◆ France and French Guyana
- ◆ Belgium
- ◆ Canada (New Brunswick & Nova Scotia)



## Certification for Foreign Teachers

- ◆ FLES certificate requirements
  - 2 years of teaching experience
  - Equivalent of Bachelor Degree
  - Teaching certificate in home country
  - Native speaker



## For further information, contact:

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## Websites

- ◆ [www.Louisianaschools.net](http://www.Louisianaschools.net)
- ◆ [www.Frenchimmersionusa.org](http://www.Frenchimmersionusa.org)