

## International Program Opportunities and Exchanges

LDOE's World Languages Team can assist schools and systems in efforts to provide access to international program opportunities and exchanges for students, teachers, and communities. This document provides an overview and next steps.

Please contact [language.acquisition@la.gov](mailto:language.acquisition@la.gov) with questions.

### The Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program

International Associate Teachers (IATs) are directly recruited internationally by the Louisiana Department of Education, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State (DOS), the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), and international government partners. Through this program, teachers of French, Mandarin, and Spanish can be employed in Louisiana schools to teach their native languages and/or in their native languages. Examples of potential placements include:

- French/Mandarin/Spanish Early World Languages (grades K-8),
- French/Mandarin/Spanish World Languages (grades 9-12),
- French/Mandarin/Spanish Dual Language Immersion (grades PK4-12), and
- Spanish Two-Way Dual Language Immersion (grades PK-8).

IATs receive a J1 Visa to work in Louisiana for a term of 3 years, with the potential to extend for an additional 2 years. After completion of the program, IATs return to their home countries.

Please consult the [Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Handbook](#) for complete details.

### Virtual Exchanges

Virtual international classroom exchanges connect Louisiana classrooms with grade and age-appropriate classrooms around the world. Students, teachers, and communities can benefit from these exchanges by providing

- discovery of different cultures, perspectives, and ways of life by interacting with peers from diverse backgrounds around the world,
- collaborative learning and teamwork skills, allowing students to work effectively with individuals from different cultures, and
- opportunities for educators from different countries to connect and share teaching practices that enrich the learning experience for all students.

Examples of potential virtual exchanges include:

- Virtual Classroom Language/Cultural Exchange
- Virtual Classroom STEM Exchange
- Virtual Classroom Content Exchange - Other topics (music, art, PE, science, math, etc.)

### In-Person Exchanges

In-person language assistant exchanges connect native speakers of French and Spanish with Louisiana world language and dual language immersion classrooms. Language assistants can assist teachers and students with improved conversational fluency through authentic language practice with native speakers, making connections with other cultures, building confidence with speaking and listening skills, and more.

Examples of potential in-person exchanges include:

- In-person Language Assistant - French (semester or year-long)
- In-person Language Assistant - Spanish (semester or year-long)
- In-person Visiting Language Teacher/Principal Exchange - French (2 weeks)
- In-person Visiting Language Teacher/Principal Exchange - Spanish (2 weeks)

### Next Steps

Complete the [International Program Opportunities and Exchanges Interest Survey](#) to learn more or to participate.