

As school systems anticipate unique circumstances regarding the arrival and integration of new International Associate Teachers (IATs) for the 2020-2021 school year, the Department encourages school systems to implement the following measures to ensure a Strong Start for all new IATs.



Welcoming IATs

Due to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions, instead of hosting its normal four day in-person orientation session in Baton Rouge this year, LDOE/CODOFIL will shift to an asynchronous virtual orientation to be completed prior to the teacher's first day of school. As a result, all new IATs will be instructed by LDOE/CODOFIL to fly directly into their new community or the closest city to that community.

School systems are encouraged to implement the following steps to ensure the safe arrival of their new teachers.

- Survey new teachers requesting detailed arrival information and emergency contact information.
- Create and articulate a detailed safe arrival and onboarding plan with the IAT.
- Maintain communication with the teacher in the weeks leading up to the teacher's arrival.

IAT Integration into Community

As in previous years, school systems ensure that IATs successfully integrate, both personally and professionally, into life in Louisiana.

Housing - School systems must coordinate housing upon arrival which takes into account social distancing guidelines for all IATs for the duration of a CDC-imposed period of self isolation. School systems should provide the address of the housing to IATs so that it will be available for any immigration and/or CDC documentation that IATs need to provide upon entering the U.S. School systems may choose to secure temporary accommodations or coordinate with IATs to secure permanent housing prior to arrival.

Responsibilities - In addition to all traditional requirements included in the Cooperative Framework Agreement, school systems should help IATs complete the following during the IAT's first few days in the community:

- Obtain a Social Security card (new school system responsibility due to COVID-19)
- Locate and obtain appropriate PPE
- Ensure access to food and necessities during self-isolation

IAT Onboarding

State of Louisiana - The State of Louisiana will digitally sign contracts with each IAT upon his/her arrival to Louisiana. Each IAT will be enrolled in a virtual orientation session offered by LDOE and CODOFIL.

School System - School systems will conduct normal onboarding processes with each IAT, which include but are not limited to: signing contracts, enrolling in medical insurance, explaining school system procedures, etc.

IAT Cultural Exchange Program

In addition to ensuring IAT safety and well-being during this unprecedented time, LDOE and CODOFIL ask that all school districts and host schools establish procedures to honor the heart of the IAT program as an exchange between cultures. For more information, please see the [International Associate Teacher Exchange Planning Document](#).

For additional programming information:

- School systems should reference the Department's [Strong Start 2020 Plan](#) for information, resources, and tools to ensure that all students, teachers, and stakeholders have a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year.
- To plan for world languages and immersion programs using an asynchronous or blended learning environment, see the Department's [World Languages Asynchronous and Blending Learning Guidance](#).
- Contact the Department's World Language Specialists at Language.Acquisition@la.gov.