

**EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, HEAD
OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MEXICO AND THE LOUISIANA
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

I. SPANISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM IN LOUISIANA "

A N T E C E D E N T :

In July, 1982, the Louisiana State Department of Education requested through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico the collaboration of the Ministry of Education for the establishment of a Spanish as a Second Language Program.

With this purpose, this Ministry received a delegation of education officials from Louisiana, U. S. A., with whom it was agreed to engage Mexican teachers from the Escuela Normal Superior with a degree in teaching English as a Second Language, for the period of one school year in the state of Louisiana. The Mexican authorities stated that signing a contract would take time, and that it would be preferable to support this program after a previous consultation with this institution's competent authorities and according to the availability of the Mexican teachers. Therefore, the Agreement was established verbally.

The following years, the principles that inspired the program have been verbally ratified, and to this date 23 Mexican teachers have been sent, during the period comprising 1982-1983, 1983-84 and 1985-1986. Throughout this time, the Head Office for International Relations has kept a close supervision and a constant evaluation of the program.

In December, 1984, education authorities from Louisiana once again visited this Head Office, where it was agreed to jointly work on a project for a Collaboration Agreement which would not only include sending Mexican teachers to teach Spanish as a Second Language, but would extend its benefits to the areas of cultural and educational exchanges. The duration of the program was also extended, so that a document was needed for both parties to sign after revising and analyzing it.

According to the above-mentioned document, both the American and the Mexican parties agree that the signing of this Exchange and Collaboration Agreement is based on the contents of the program for Cultural and Educational activities between Mexico and the United States of America for the period comprising 1984-1987, in accordance with Chapter 1, paragraphs 1 and 4 which state:

1. Educational - Cultural Exchange

Priorities

Teaching of the language

1. Both parties will analyze, on all levels, the Programs for teaching Spanish in the United States of America and for teaching English in Mexico.
4. So as to disseminate the Language, History and Literature of the other country, both parties will favor the exchange of teachers and teaching materials.

OBJECTIVES:

To establish cultural links based on the teaching experience that the Mexican educators share in the field of teaching Spanish as a Second Language in the State of Louisiana.

To grasp comparative pedagogical studies and techniques that will enrich the experience acquired in the Mexican institution that trained them to be foreign language teachers.

To become familiar with pedagogical innovations and materials of language instruction.

To depend on a teaching staff whose geographical and cultural origins guarantee the mastery and correct use of the Spanish language for Louisiana students.

CONDITIONS:

- a) The Louisiana State Department of Education will contract with Mexican teachers for the period of one school year (August 15- June 15). These teachers must have certification and experience in elementary education and the teaching of English as a foreign language.
- b) The Louisiana State Department of Education will provide these teachers with the opportunity of attending state funded universities.
- c) Participants will only be able to remain in Louisiana for one full school year, because they must be reintegrated into the teacher plan of the Mexican Educational System; however, by mutual agreement, a maximum of 3 teachers can, renew their contracts one more year in order to help the newly contracted teachers and thus ensure continuity to the program. Prior agreement will be noted to the Director General of International Relations.

- d) Both institutions will make periodic reports as well as conduct the necessary program evaluations, incorporating recommendations that will improve the over all program.

O B L I G A T I O N S:

The Louisiana State Department of Education will:

1. Contract a maximum of 25 Mexican teachers to continue the experience of the previous years. The definitive number will be formally communicated 4 months before the beginning of the program (April 15).
2. Make the final selection of candidates in Mexico City around July 15 of each year.
3. Offer an orientation workshop prior to the beginning of the program.
4. Pay Mexican teachers at the rate of a beginning Louisiana teacher for the academic year (August 15 through June 15).

NOTE: \$12,530 (U.S. Dollars) for 1985-86.

5. Pay round-trip tickets (Mexico-USA) for all participants.
6. Assist participants in finding lodging in the community of assignment.
7. Make all visa arrangements and job assignments for; Mexican teachers.
8. Cover the travel allowance (lodging, food and local transportation) for a Mexican supervisor to make up to 3 evaluation visits during the school year.
9. Report to the Head Office for International Relations all necessary information about the program in order to have all activities completed on time.

The Head Office for International Relations of the Ministry of Education will:

1. Advertise the program and provide an orientation workshop for the teachers selected by Louisiana to participate in this program.
2. Cover the round-trip air fare (Mexico-U.S.-Mexico) of the Mexican supervisor for up to 3 visits during the school year.
3. Collaborate on the supervision and evaluation of Mexican teacher's performance in Louisiana.

4. Realize a joint evaluation of the program.
5. Work jointly with Louisiana Education officials to develop curriculum guides and instructional materials in the area of Spanish as a Second Language.

II. Additional Program Possibilities

Both parties agree to the need for short term and long term programs to the future benefit of education in Louisiana and Mexico. These programs would include, but not be limited to the following:

A. Visit of school administrators

The Louisiana side would like to provide its administrators the opportunity to visit and gain knowledge of the Mexican educational system. The Mexican Ministry of Education (SEP), which already provides this type of program through the Office of International Relations, will look into the possibility of receiving a group of Louisiana administrators. The Louisiana side would arrange for a similar program for Mexican school administrators upon request.

B. Summer training programs for teachers in Mexico and Louisiana.

1. Louisiana expressed a need for summer training programs for elementary and secondary teachers of Spanish and bilingual education. The Mexican Ministry of Education (SEP) will explore the possibility of a four week intensive training program at a mutually selected sight for a maximum of 30 teachers. Cost for the program will be finalized by April 15.
2. The Louisiana side, through the State Department of Education and a selected university, will explore, the possibility of a summer study program in English as a Second Language for Mexican teachers and/or college students. The cost of this program would be provided upon request.

III. Cultural Activities

The Mexican Ministry of Education (SEP) will study the possibility of sending to Louisiana through the Office of, International Relations, cultural programs which include programs of theater, art, music, dance, arts and crafts, and media on a cost-sharing basis.

Continuity of Programs and Planning to Meet Emerging Needs

The Louisiana Department of Education, and the Mexican Ministry of Education (SEP) agree to continue and expand the programs and activities in the areas of education and culture. Both parties will maintain communication and will meet on an annual basis to evaluate existing programs and to plan for future needs.

The present Accord will last for three (3) years and will enter into effect on the date that it is signed and can be extended if both parties so desire, for a period to be mutually agreed upon.

Either party may terminate this accord with six months prior notification in writing.

SIGNATORIES

MEXICO

Secretaria de Educacion Publica

Juan Antonio Montes

Director General de Relaciones
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Leoncio Lara Sáenz

Oficial Mayor

LOUISIANA

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Thomas G. Clausen, Ph. D.

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