

France Gives \$100,000 to Help Create Dual-Language Programs in NYC

NEW YORK AND PARIS DRAFTING AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE FUTURE COOPERATION

New York, September 27—On Monday September 24, **Marc Foucault**, director of European and International Relations at the French Ministry of Education, announced that the **French government** was granting an extra **50,000 euros** (about \$70,000) to support the implementation of **French-English dual-language programs in New York City** schools. This comes in addition to the \$30,000 in funding that has already been provided to the three public schools that first launched bilingual programs (PS 125 in Harlem, PS 58 in Brooklyn, and CIS 22 in the Bronx), making for a **grand total of \$100,000**. A fourth school, District 18 in Brooklyn (It Takes a Village Academy), is about to follow suit.

Mr. Foucault made his announcement while visiting **the Jordan L Mott Middle School (CIS 22)** in the Bronx, where a delegation of French and American officials (including Deputy Chancellor **Dr. Marcia Lyles** and **Carmen Santos**, executive director for the Office of English Language Learners) was able to see first-hand the enthusiasm generated by the study of French among young students. They are being **partially immersed** in a **French-language environment**, with half of their classes taking place in French, and half in English. They are expected to become **completely bilingual after five years** of such dual-language teaching.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education have promised **\$20,000**, both in-kind and in direct grants, to **each school participating** in the dual-language program. In particular, France will provide **language training**, either in the U.S. (language workshops are organized in New York every year) or in France, **trips to France** for school principals, **teaching supplies** and materials (such as French books), and of course **direct grants** to participating schools for pedagogical activities linked to the program (exchanges...). In addition, the French Embassy will cover the costs incurred in the **recruitment of French teachers**, and will organize **events** (author tours, performances, etc...) for dual-language classes.

The French government, with the support of the New York Department of Education and parent associations (in particular Education Française à New York), is hoping to secure **funding from other sources** as well, particularly from individual **donors** and **charitable foundations**. Interested parties should contact **Fabrice Jaumont** (see contact information below).

In order to facilitate the spread of dual-language programs throughout the city, and educational cooperation in general, French and American authorities are currently working on a **Memorandum Of Understanding** between **New York City** and the **Academy of Paris**. This agreement would make it easier to organize **teacher and student exchanges**, to train and recruit teachers, and to **promote cooperation between universities**. For instance, teachers coming from France would no longer need to be certified by the State of New York in order to teach in the city, and visa procedures would be greatly simplified. The French Embassy's educational service is confident that the Memorandum will be signed in **early 2008**.

Eight agreements of this type already exist in the United States (between Kentucky and the Academy of Dijon, Connecticut and the Academy of Toulouse, Nebraska and the Academy of Besançon, Wisconsin and the Academy of Bordeaux and that of Aix-Marseille, Indiana and the Academy of Strasbourg, Louisiana and the Academy of Rennes, Oklahoma and the Academy of Amiens, and South Carolina and the Academy of Clermont-Ferrand).

School principals, administrators, community leaders and parents are encouraged to contact the French Embassy's Cultural Services to learn more about how they, too, can implement dual-language French-English programs in their schools.

For more information:

www.frenchculture.org

High-resolution images of Mr. Foucault's visit are available here:

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