Bilingual Project OK'd For Iberia

NEW IBERIA — U.S. Rep. Pat Caffery of New Iberia announced today the pilot French English bilingual program will be funded in Iberia Parish for the school year 1972-73.

The project will be federally assisted as a part of the Title VII program and is based upon a preliminary proposal submitted by the local school board.

The program will be introduced at the first and second grade levels in the Coteau, Avery Island, Loreauville and Delcambre elementary schools. It consists of the introducing of basic curriculum materials in both the French and English languages.

Bilingual programs are designed primarily to aid the students who are less fluent in the use of the English language.

The Iberia program will receive $128,000 for next year.

Students will be encouraged to express themselves in whichever language is most comfortable for them. All students including the English-dominant ones will have an opportunity to learn French.

The program will be monitored closely to assure that it contributes to the overall achievement of the students. In addition to the French Language, the customs and traditions of the local area will also be included in the program.

In the operation of the program the regular first grade teacher will have a French-speaking aide in her classroom at all times. In addition, a certified bilingual teacher will be available in each school to assist the teacher in her regular program and to teach a part of the basic curriculum in French.

The Iberia Parish program is the only new bilingual program funded in Louisiana this year and one of only two French programs funded in the United States.