In 1968, because of the threats to the Louisiana French language and culture and the concern of certain individuals - among them former congressman James Domengeaux - the Legislature passed Act 409 establishing the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) with Mr. Domengeaux as chairman.

Since then, CODOFIL has sponsored many programs to protect and promote the French heritage of Louisiana: the teaching of French in elementary schools, student and teacher exchanges, the organization of national and international meetings, festivals, radio and television programs in French, bilingual publications, etc.
**Elementary level**

Out of the 64 state parishes, 33 participate in different programs. In the 1985-86 school year, foreign teachers of French from France, Belgium and Quebec number 97, not including resource teachers. This figure is lower every year as the number of native Louisiana teachers increases; at present they are 170. Approximately 50,000 students have 30 minutes to 2 hours of French classes daily.

**Secondary level**

Despite the fact that foreign language classes are an elective, which is a big handicap, there are approximately 300 teachers of French in Louisiana's public and private high schools.

**College level**

Several Louisiana colleges offer an E.L.E.S. program (Foreign Language Education Specialist) to train student teachers in French. In addition, special immersion programs in France, Belgium, and Quebec are offered every summer.

Along with the Consortium of Louisiana Colleges and Universities composed of the heads of the foreign language departments of these 22 institutions, CODOFIL supervises year-round academic programs in France, Belgium, and Quebec. In return, scholarships are awarded by the state of Louisiana to French-speaking students from these countries to study in Louisiana.

**Evaluation of programs**

In 1980, the President's Commission on Foreign Languages and International Studies had stressed that second language education be made compulsory in high school for a minimum of two years, and that second language education become a prerequisite for admission to a university; it also suggested a revision of evaluation procedures for foreign language teachers with, for instance, the obligation to study abroad a full year or two summers.

In 1985, these recommendations started to be acted upon. The BSEE Board (Board of Elementary Secondary Education) proposed that the teaching of a second language (French in most of the cases) be made compulsory from grades 4 to 8. These measures will be fully implemented when funding is provided by the state. The Louisiana (State University) already requires 2 years of a foreign language in order to register. A new training program for French teachers has also been developed.

**Exchange and Academic Programs**

Each year, CODOFIL sends approximately 250 students and professors to colleges and families in France, Belgium, Quebec, and New Brunswick. Similarly, CODOFIL supervises the visit of a hundred students from different countries.

In 1983, the French association France-Louisiane and CODOFIL established “Louisiane Contact”; the purpose of this club, a hundred families strong, is to encourage family exchanges and visits.

**Mass Media**

**Radio**

Almost 100 hours of programs in Louisiana French are broadcast weekly on 20 private radio stations in southwestern Louisiana.

In addition, KRVS-88 FM, “Radio Acadie en Louisiane” on the campus of USL (University of Southwestern Louisiana) in Lafayette is the only bilingual French-English public radio station in the U.S. With its 100,000-watt transmitter, KRVS reaches 22 parishes and nearly all the French-speaking population of Louisiana. Sponsored by CODOFIL and USL, KRVS broadcasts 40 hours a week in French. It is a unique instrument for the survival and development of the French culture in Louisiana.

**Enseignement**

Niveau élémentaire

Sur les 64 paroisses (comtés) de l'état de Louisiane, 33 participent au programme d'état. Pour l'année scolaire 1985-86, le nombre des enseignants étrangers (français, belges et québécois) dans les écoles primaires de Louisiane s'est élevé à 97, sans compter les conseillers pédagogiques qui épiduisent la relève louisianaise. Ce chiffre diminut d'année en année alors qu'il augmente régulièrement le nombre de maîtres louisianais (FLES spécialistes; foreign language education specialists): 170 pour 1985-1986. Environ 50,000 enfants reçoivent chaque jour un minimum de 30 minutes (pour certains jusqu'à 2 heures) d'instruction en français.

Niveau secondaire

Malgré le terrible handicap que représente le caractère facultatif des cours de langue au niveau secondaire, on compte près de 300 professeurs de français dans les lycées et instituts secondaires de Louisiane, privés et publics.

**Mass Media**

**Radio**

Près de 100 heures par semaine d'émissions en français régionales sont diffusées par une vingtaine de radios privées du sud de la Louisiane.

KRVS-88 FM, “Radio Acadie en Louisiane,” située sur le campus de l'Université de Lafayette, est la seule radio publique bilingue (anglais-français) des États-Unis. Grâce à son émetteur FM d’une puissance de 100,000 W, KRVS couvre une dizaine de comtés (comtés). Cet outil essentiel pour la préservation de la culture française en Louisiane.
Television
Since 1981, Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) in collaboration with CODOFIL and the Department of Education airs 4 hours of French programs a week, mostly educational series.

Cable TV stations also have French programs; in Lafayette, Acadiana Open Channel (AOC Channel 5) presents a French night every Wednesday, and in Golden Meadow, Callais Cable presents “Bonjour” every weekday morning.

Press

LOUISIANE is a bilingual publication published by Media-Louisiane, a private non-profit foundation. Started as a newsletter, LOUISIANE became a 20-page newspaper with a circulation of over 10,000. LOUISIANE, the only bilingual newspaper in Louisiana and the South, is an important link between French-speaking communities and associations.

OTHER ACTIONS

CODOFIL is sponsoring a wide variety of other activities to promote and strengthen the Louisiana French culture: welcoming numerous French-speaking visitors, organizing of cultural and touristic trips to Francophone countries, translations, publicity, booking of touring artists, celebration of the National Day of the Acadians (August 15), etc.

CODOFIL collaborates with numerous French-speaking associations such as Belgique-Louisiane, France-Louisiane and Québec-Louisiane; it also maintains relations with North-American and international Francophone organizations - Association of Franco-Americans (AFA), Conseil de la Vie Française en Amérique, Société Nationale des Acadiens (SNA), Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique (ACCT), Association Internationale des Parlementaires de Langue Française (AIPLF), Association des Universités Partiellement ou Entièrement de Langue Française (AUPELF), Institut de Droit d’Expression Française (IDEF), etc.

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