Haitian Creole Language Arts Curriculum Project

(Language Arts Standards, Grades K-5)
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NYSED Office of Bilingual Education
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at Brooklyn College

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Dear Colleague:

The Haitian Creole Language Arts Curriculum Project (Grades K-6) was developed as a resource for teachers and administrators. It’s designed to provide educators with a guide which contains the literary competencies and performance indicators which are essential to the development (and maintenance) of proficiency in Haitian Creole Language Arts. The principal objective is to enable teachers to better understand and meet the Native Language Arts needs of students as they guide and support their effort to attain proficiency in the English language while maintaining a level of fluency in the native language.

The idea here, which has been supported by research, is that students who are literate in their native language tend to experience greater success in the acquisition of a second language. In other words, the native language offers the student a skill-set which serves as a bridge to the target language and enhances his/her ability to meet the State Standards in all core content areas. The foundational framework for this document is the New York State Education Department (NYSED) CR Part 154 Guidelines for the Education of Limited English Proficient/English Language Learners (LEP/ELLs).

This curriculum guide should enable schoolteachers and administrators to develop programs which address both the linguistic and general academic needs of Haitian students, as outlined in the State and Federal regulations which govern the education of English language learners.

The staff of New York State Haitian Language BETAC at Brooklyn College composed this document with input from researchers, educators and practitioners in the field of first and second language acquisition.

As more districts adopt and implement this curriculum, all ideas, insights and perspectives should be documented and shared. We invite your comments on this resource guide and appreciate your input relevant to the education of our students.

Please direct your comments to:

Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies  
New York State Education Department  
Room 367 EBA  
Albany, New York 12234

Sincerely,

Dr. Pedro Ruiz