

Memorandum of Understanding between Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education and The North Carolina State Board of Education For Cooperation in K-12 Education

The Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education (JPDE) and the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop collaborative programs in K-12 education. This MOU recognizes that

- Both Jiangsu Province and North Carolina are committed to strengthening the global competence of their students;
- Educational collaboration and exchange are effective vehicles for fostering the development of global competence and mutual understanding;
- Eleven partnerships have already been established between schools in Jiangsu Province and in North Carolina, and
- Institutions of higher education in Jiangsu Province and in North Carolina are already collaborating on a variety of projects.

I. Goals

The goals of this MOU are as follows:

- To strengthen knowledge and understanding of each other's countries and cultures among K-12 educational leaders, educators and students,
- To facilitate the development of programs and activities which will foster mutual understanding, and
- To develop a framework for a sustainable relationship between JPDE and SBE

II. Activities

JPDE and SBE agree to facilitate and support the eleven middle and high school partnerships already established between schools in Jiangsu Province and in North Carolina. They further agree to encourage the development of additional school partnerships.

Collaborations between JPDE and SBE will focus on the themes of

- Math and science education
- Language education

- Culture and arts education
- Lesson planning and research
- Business climate
- Education as a tool for economic development

Either party may propose additional topics for consideration. JPDE and SBE will jointly determine the appropriate method to address these themes. Activities might include but not be limited to

- Exchanges of teachers and students
- Joint conferences
- Professional development seminars for teachers and principals
- Collaborative classroom and student projects

To the degree possible, technology should be utilized to facilitate dialogue and collaborations.

III. Duration

The duration of this MOU shall be four years from the date of signing and may be renegotiated upon expiration depending on mutual interest. This MOU may be terminated by either party with six months advance written notice.

IV. Framework

JPDE and SBE will serve as coordinating agencies for their respective governments for this MOU. Each will designate an appropriate person to maintain communication.

The Jiangsu Provincial Minister of Education and the Chairman of the State Board of Education or their designees will meet annually alternating between Nanjing and Raleigh to discuss educational issues of mutual interest, evaluate joint activities, and plan for future cooperative programs.

It is mutually understood that financing for any arrangements must be identified by both parties before proposed collaborative activities can be finalized.

All activities must be in accord with the policies, regulations, and laws of the respective countries.

V. Signatures

The participants respectively authorize the following representatives to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, on May 1, 2008, in duplicate, in English and Chinese Languages, each version being equally valid.

Li Shikai, Assistant Director-General
Jiangsu Provincial Department
of Education

Howard Lee, Chairman
North Carolina State Board of Education

And

June St. Clair Atkinson
Secretary, North Carolina State Board of
Education, and
North Carolina Superintendent of Public
Instruction