



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
THE PRESIDENCY OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS - MINISTER FOR  
REFORMS AND INNOVATIONS  
IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
AND  
THE ITALIAN MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES  
OF  
PISES.Valdiano's Project  
BACKGROUND AND RESOLUTION**

The Delaware Department of Education (hereafter referred to as the Department), the Presidency of Council of Ministers - Minister for Reforms and Innovation in Public Administration (hereafter referred to the Minister) and the Italian Mountain Communities participating to the project PISES.Valdiano (hereafter referred to as PISES Project) represented by the Mountain Community of the Vallo di Diano (hereafter referred to as Vallo di Diano), express their wish to deepen and strengthen a collaborative relationship to enhance the opportunities for educational and cultural exchanges, to facilitate the reciprocal understanding of the principles of democracy and to help and at the same time to increase the inclusion of students in e-democracy processes.

In the past decade, important changes in education and teacher training have taken place both in Delaware and in Italy. The academic training of the students and the professional development of the teachers can be enhanced so that they participate with greater understanding in a global economy and multicultural society.

PISES Project is funded by Italian Government's Department of Reforms and Innovation in Public Administration to promote e-Democracy in primary, middle and secondary schools all over mountain areas in collaboration with Community Mountains. Project endeavors are assessed by CNIPA (National Center for Information Technology in Public Administrations).

The Department, Vallo di Diano and PISES Project:

Recognize the importance that the English and Italian languages have as instruments of communication between individuals and countries, and of the value languages play in the exchange of information and culture; and

Recognize the importance of the Italian heritage that is shared by many Delawareans;

Are driven by the desire to advance the goals of mutual understanding and respect between the citizens of their respective territories;

THEREFORE, resolve to establish this Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as the MOU).

This MOU is hereby signed pursuant to the following Agreements:

### **I. General Principles**

The Department and Vallo di Diano acting as representative of the whole PISES Project establish the following five objectives for the cooperative programs that will be developed under this MOU to enhance the teaching of the Italian language and culture in the Delaware public schools:

- To provide professional growth opportunities to teachers and administrators in the State of Delaware;
- To provide students with Italian language and cultural education that helps them appreciate Italian and Italian-American culture as well as prepares them to be global citizens;
- To promote relationships between the citizens of the State of Delaware and Italy;
- To facilitate initiatives for inclusion of young people in e-democracy processes;
- and
- To encourage student and educator exchanges between partner schools in the State of Delaware and Italy.

All activities subject to this MOU will promote high academic standards.

### **II. Cooperative Programs**

The cooperation between the the Department and PISES Project will be demonstrated through the following programs:

#### *II.1 Student and Educator Exchanges*

II.1.1 Student/Educator Group Exchange Program: The Department ( free collaboration), Vallo di Diano and PISES Project agree to establish partner schools in the State of Delaware and in Italy and encourage exchanges between these partner schools. Each exchange group will consist of educators and up to 15 students. They will visit each partner school for a period of no more than three weeks, timing the visit so that each group can visit each other's school and attend class. Exchanges will also permit a variety of other language and culture-related activities organized by the receiving school.

II.1.2 Students Exchange Program: The Department, Vallo di Diano and PISES Project agree to facilitate student exchange between middle and/or secondary classrooms of school districts in the State of Delaware and in Italy.

II.1.3 Virtual Exchanges/Classroom Partnership Program: The Department, Vallo di Diano and PISES Project agree to promote the virtual exchange between classrooms in established

partner schools in the State of Delaware and Italy.

II.1.3.1 These virtual exchanges or classroom partnerships may consist of classroom projects completed via an electronic classroom environment such as an e-learning web platform, simple email, a wiki, a blog or Second Life's educational facilities.

II.1.3.2 The projects will be focused preferably on helping students to participate in the democratic way of life in both a national and global context.

II.1.3.3 The Department, Vallo di Diano and PISES Project will encourage partner schools to establish and maintain a web site to showcase their endeavors.

II.1.4 The Department will recruit and select, in cooperation with Vallo di Diano, school districts in the State of Delaware to participate in the program.

II.1.5 Vallo di Diano and PISES Project:

- Determine, in cooperation with the Department, which Italian schools will participate in the program.

- make available to every school district participating all the virtual classroom's contents, services, educational and working models developed by the project itself.

- assist classrooms from Delaware's school districts to join their working areas inside the free Oracle Education Foundation's "Think.com" environment.

II.1.6 The Department, Vallo di Diano and PISES Project will collaborate to facilitate the necessary travel documents for the selected teachers and students.

## *II.2 Italian Culture and Heritage Standards-based Lessons*

The Department, Vallo di Diano and PISES Project will collaborate to exchange standards-based lessons that celebrate Italian and Italian-American culture that will be located on the Department of Education website to be used by teachers for integration into their daily classroom instructional activities.

## **III. Evaluation**

III.1 Annually, representatives of the Department, Vallo di Diano and PISES Project will develop a report relative to the application of this program. The report will suggest proposals for improvement.

III.2 The Department, Vallo di Diano and PISES Project agree that representatives of both administrations will evaluate the programs which are the subject of this Memorandum at meetings, which will take place alternatively in one region or the other.

## **IV. Duration**

IV.1 The term of this MOU will be four (4) years, beginning on the date of signing by parties. At the end of the agreement, terms of renewal will be discussed unless either party desires that the agreement should not be renewed. In that case, that party shall forward a letter of non-renewal 30 days prior to the date of expiration to the other party.

IV.2 This MOU may be terminated by either the Department or Vallo di Diano if such a decision is reported to the other signatories by written notice six (6) months in advance.

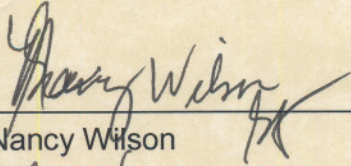
IV.3 During the time the MOU is in effect, all parties being in agreement may execute addenda that improve its effectiveness.

IV.4 Unless otherwise stipulated, any addendum to this MOU will take effect when signed by the Department and Vallo di Diano as representative of the local authorities participating to the PISES Project.

This MOU is signed in English and in Italian and both are equally valid in the State of Delaware and in Italy.

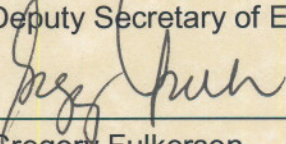
Signed in Rome, on the 7th day of November, 2007.

Representing the Delaware Department of Education



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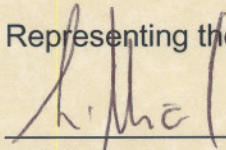
Nancy Wilson  
Deputy Secretary of Education



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Gregory Fulkerson  
Education Associate, World Languages & International Education

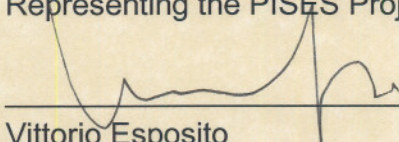
Representing the Italy Department of Reforms and Innovation in Public Administrations



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Luigi Nicolais  
Minister for Reforms and Innovations in Public Administrations.

Representing the PISES Project



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Vittorio Esposito  
President of Mountain Community "Vallo di Diano"