



## **Delaware Department of Education Visiting Teachers from Spain Program**

The Visiting Teachers from Spain Program is intended to help schools provide quality world language instruction to Delaware students by supplying a pool of certified teaching candidates.

The candidates are pre-selected by the Spanish Ministry of Education and interviewed in person by the Education Associate for World Languages and International Education at the Delaware Department of Education. The Education Associate then consults with interested school districts in Delaware about potential candidates. Secondary teaching candidates all have a Master's Degree and a CAP (a special teaching license issued by the Ministry of Education of Spain). Elementary candidates may have either a B.A. or a Master's Degree. All are certified to teach Spanish or English as a Second Language. They all will meet the criteria of a Highly Qualified Teacher as defined by *No Child Left Behind*.

Visiting Teachers may be hired to teach for up to 3 years on their initial J1 visa. Districts will provide these teachers with a salary commensurate with their degree and years of experience.

Districts interested in hiring a Visiting Teacher from Spain should submit a Letter of Intent to Hire and contact Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate for World Languages and International Education at [gfulkerson@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:gfulkerson@doe.k12.de.us) or 302.735.4180 as soon as possible.

### **What are the broad program objectives?**

- To provide the opportunity for Delaware students to learn Spanish from native speakers.
- To increase global awareness and understanding in the school community.
- To increase understanding of the language, culture, and history of Spain.

- To develop lifelong international professional relationships and friendships.

### **How does the Visiting Teachers from Spain Program work?**

- The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain (MEC) signed a memorandum of understanding in April, 2006.
- In the fall, the Spanish Ministry of Education publishes a call for teachers and pre-selects possible candidates.
- In February, Delaware superintendents and principals receive an informational packet about the program. They then write a *letter of intent to hire* to inform the DDOE that they are interested in hiring a Visiting Teacher for the next school year. (*Districts or charter schools deciding to hire a Visiting Teacher at a later date may contact the DDOE Education Associate for World Languages and International Education at any time.*)
- In the spring, the DDOE Education Associate for World Languages and International Education interviews prospective candidates in Madrid.
- From May through July, selected candidates are assigned to a school, schedule an interview at the American Embassy in Madrid to obtain a J1 visa, and prepare to move to Delaware.
- In early July, Visiting Teachers participate in a workshop in Madrid focusing on life and teaching in the U.S.A.
- In late July, Visiting Teachers arrive in Delaware, participate in an orientation workshop on *Living and Teaching in Delaware\** and are taken by a district representative from Dover to their new towns where they fill out a TC1 form and be hired by the district at a level commensurate to their degree and experience.
- In late September, Visiting Teachers attend a special meeting in Dover designed as a follow-up to the *Living and Teaching in Delaware* orientation.
- Sometime in the fall, the DDOE Education Associate for World Languages and International Education and state representative from the Embassy of Spain schedule an on-site visit with the Visiting Teacher and local school administrators.
- Districts that host a Visiting Teacher from Spain are eligible to receive scholarships from the Ministry of Education in Spain for their teachers and

administrators to enroll in courses provided by Spanish Universities for the teaching of Spanish language and culture.

*\* In the event that the teacher is hired at a date too late to attend the orientation workshop, the DDOE Education Associate will arrange with the school administrators and the visiting teacher to provide the training at a convenient place and date.*

### **What are the DDOE's Responsibilities?**

- To assess the needs of local school districts.
- To provide the DDOE Education Associate for World Languages and International Education to interview prospective candidates in Spain.
- To select candidates and recommend them to districts requesting a visiting teacher.
- To secure J1 visas for all teachers from Spain.
- To provide an orientation course, *Living and Teaching in Delaware*.
- To act as liaison between local schools and the Embassy of Spain's representative in Washington, DC.

### **What are the Local School District's Responsibilities?**

- To provide a contact person who is available to discuss personnel issues during the selection process and possible follow-up interview.
- To provide a building-level administrator who acts as a liaison for the teacher.
- To provide a fellow teacher/mentor, preferably in the same building, to provide guidance and support for the visiting teacher from Spain. (Mentoring Teacher Program)
- To provide a welcoming family with whom the visiting teacher can stay until suitable housing can be found.
- To provide additional support to ensure a successful and positive experience for both the school and the teacher, including assistance in securing a social security number, setting up housekeeping, obtaining a driver's license, buying a car, etc.
- To support the Visiting Teacher's attendance at the orientation course, *Living and Teaching in Delaware* and at a special September meeting for Visiting Teachers to be held in Dover.

**For more information contact:**

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