



Delaware Department of Education Volunteer Teachers from China Program

The Volunteer Teachers from China 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 Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) 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. All candidates have either a BA or MA in languages and have at least three years of prior teaching experience. They all will meet the criteria of a Highly Qualified Teacher as defined by *No Child Left Behind*.

Volunteer Teachers may be hired to teach for up to 3 years on their initial J1 visa. Volunteer Teachers from China do not receive salaries from Delaware School Districts, but do receive housing, transportation to and from school and insurance.

Districts interested in hiring a Volunteer Teacher from China 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 or 302.735.4180 as soon as possible.

What are the broad program objectives?

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

- To develop lifelong international professional relationships and friendships.

How does the Volunteer Teachers from China Program work?

- The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) signed a memorandum of understanding in April, 2006.
- In the fall Hanban 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 Volunteer Teacher at a later date may contact the DDOE Education Associate for World Languages and International Education at any time.*)
- In the early spring, the DDOE Education Associate for World Language and International Education interviews prospective candidates in Beijing.
- From April through May, selected candidates are assigned to a school, schedule an interview at the American Embassy in Beijing to obtain a J1 visa, and prepare to move to Delaware.
- In early July, Visiting Teachers participate in a workshop in Beijing 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 forms to 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.
- In October, the DDOE Education Associate for World Languages and International Education and state representative from the Embassy of China schedule an on-site visit with the Visiting Teacher and local school administrators.

** 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 China.
- To select candidates and recommend them to districts requesting a volunteer teacher.
- To secure J1 visas for all teachers from China.
- To provide an orientation course, *Living and Teaching in Delaware*.
- To act as liaison between local schools and the Embassy of China'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 the following assistance to the Volunteer Teacher during his/her contract period:
 - Housing, including basic utilities (a rented apartment or an arranged homestay)
 - Local transportation in the school community (to and from work, to doctor's appointments, etc.). If a car is provided, the costs associated with obtaining a driver's license as well as any insurance must also be provided.
 - Health, repatriation and medical evacuation insurance**
- 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, obtaining a driver's license, 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.

***The US Department of State requires that medical benefits must cover at least \$50,000 per accident or illness, repatriation of remains in the amount of \$7,500, expenses associated with medical evacuation in the amount of \$10,000 and a deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness. Additional information on insurance can be provided by the DDOE Education Associate for World Languages and International Education.*

For more information contact:

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