

Visiting Teacher from China Program

*The Nebraska Department of Education, The College Board
and the Office of Chinese Language Council International*

Interaction with the global marketplace is an aspect of Nebraska's growing economy that demands attention. From agriculture to industry, Nebraska faces the challenge of gaining the knowledge and skills to communicate with and better understand the communities of the world. World language education helps the state meet this challenge by teaching students how to interact and communicate in the target language, and understand and respect other cultures. Unfortunately, a shortage of world language teachers across the nation makes it more difficult to provide Nebraska students with qualified teachers. The Nebraska Department of Education is working with Educational Service Units and local school districts to provide options when a district is unable to find a world language teacher. Some of these options are sharing teachers between districts, teaching via distance learning, receiving instruction over satellite, independent study, telelanguage, or online courses offered by colleges and universities. Even with these options, there is still a need for qualified world language teachers, especially in Chinese.

The Office of Chinese Language Council International (HANBAN) offers several programs that could help alleviate the shortage of Chinese teachers in Nebraska. The Visiting Teacher Program could provide the greatest impact to Nebraska school districts offering the option of recruiting a qualified visiting Chinese teacher to meet the needs of their district.

The Nebraska Department of Education and the College Board are committed to the principle of providing quality education for all students. The Visiting Teacher Program would help NDE meet this goal.

Objectives

- To provide the opportunity for Nebraska students to learn Chinese from native speakers
- To increase global awareness on the part of students taught by visiting teachers
- To increase understanding of the language, culture, and history of China
- To develop lifelong professional relationships and friendships

Process

- The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Office of Chinese Language Council International (HANBAN) sign a memorandum of understanding
- NDE surveys the needs of Nebraska school districts and provides an Application of Intent, which does not obligate the school district to hire a teacher from China
- The Office of Chinese Language Council International (HANBAN) selects possible candidates
- NDE Team travels to China with College Board representatives to conduct extensive interviews with prospective recruits
- Recruited teachers will make a one-to-three year commitment to teach in Nebraska, provided that the local school district chooses to rehire them each year
- Recruited teachers will function as regular members of their respective school faculties and will be paid accordingly

Responsibility of NDE

- To assess the needs of local school districts
- To provide a team to interview prospective candidates in China
- To select candidates and place them in districts that request a visiting teacher
- To offer orientation and pre-service training for visiting teachers

Responsibility of Local School District

- To provide a contact person who is available to discuss personnel issues during the interview and selection process
- 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 offer guidance and support for the visiting teacher from China
- To compensate NDE for pre-service training and orientation
- To provide additional support to ensure a successful and positive experience for both the school and the teacher, including assistance in setting up housekeeping, obtaining a drivers license, buying a car, etc.