

## Cooperative International Program

The Visiting Teacher from Germany Program, initiated in 2004, is a cooperative effort of the Nebraska Department of Education and the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation in Berlin.

- NDE surveys the needs of Nebraska school districts
- Checkpoint Charlie Foundation prescreens possible candidates
- Recruits make a one year commitment to teach in Nebraska
- Recruited teachers function as regular members of their respective school faculties

For additional information on this program, please visit the following websites:

- <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/forlg/VTG/VTGMain.htm>
- <http://www.berlin-usa-foundation.org/en/projectsandprograms/step>



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# Visiting Teacher from Germany Program

*Sponsored through the*  
**NEBRASKA**  
**DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION**  
**&**  
**CHECKPOINT CHARLIE**  
**FOUNDATION**



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## German Teacher Exchange Program

The German Teacher Exchange Program is one of three main programs under the direction of the School Teacher Exchange Program (STEP) established in 1986 and currently administered by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation in Berlin. STEP is financed by the Berlin Department for Education, Youth and Sport, and has been consistently refined and expanded as needed to address the requirements of its participants.

Under the German Teacher Exchange Program, teachers from all German federal states go to the U.S. to teach for 1-3 years in any discipline.

Since 1986 through the summer of 2003, over 1,200 German teachers from every German state, with Berlin providing the second-largest contingent at 15%, have taught in Texas, Missouri, North Carolina, Georgia, California, Virginia, New Jersey and South Carolina. This reflects an average yearly participation rate of 71 teachers; since 1991, 214 teachers from Eastern Germany have also participated in the program.

In 2004, the Nebraska Department of Education, working closely with Checkpoint Charlie Foundation administrators, established the Visiting Teacher from Germany Program that will match qualified teachers from Germany with Nebraska schools.

## Visiting Teacher from Germany Program

A shortage of educators across the nation makes it increasingly more difficult to provide Nebraska students with qualified teachers. In an effort to address this problem, Nebraska has partnered with the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation to establish the Visiting Teacher from Germany Program, offering Nebraska school districts the option of recruiting a German exchange teacher in any subject area.

In most cases the German teachers teach their subjects in English at the levels in which they are certified (Elementary / Middle School / High School). This could be anything from Science to Special Education and from Latin to Music. They could also be part of an immersion program and teach their classes in German.

### Educational Objectives

The Nebraska Department of Education is committed to the principle of providing quality education for all students in any discipline area. The Visiting Teacher from Germany Program helps meet this goal by:

- expanding global awareness of students taught by exchange teachers
- increasing understanding of the culture, history, and language of Germany
- developing lifelong professional relationships and friendships

## Checkpoint Charlie Foundation

For almost five decades, America's commitment to Berlin was central in developing the close bond of friendship between Germans and Americans.



With the withdrawal of American troops from the city, Berliners were determined to continue to strengthen their unique ties to the country which had done so much for them. To this end, the Berlin legislature passed an act in 1994 creating a foundation and entrusting it with the responsibility to foster German-American relations in Berlin. The legislature chose to name the new foundation after the former Berlin border crossing that had become a symbol for the American presence in Berlin during the Cold War, and the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation was born.

### Programs & Projects

In addition to providing financial support for outside projects, the Foundation also organizes its own programs—with the German Teacher Exchange Program among the most prominent.

A complementary endeavor, the Educational Enrichment Program, offers a two-week continuing education visit to Berlin for teachers, administrators and education policy-makers from partner states. Over 635 educators from more than 96 American school districts have participated in this opportunity.

The Foundation strives to constantly **respond to** ongoing developments in German-American relations by developing new and innovative programs which address upcoming issues.