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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF  
THE STATE OF DELAWARE**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
OF THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN**

**BACKGROUND AND RESOLUTION**

The Ministry of Education and Science of Spain (hereafter referred to as the Ministry), and the Department of Education of the State of Delaware (hereafter referred to as the Department),

Recognize the importance that the English and Spanish languages carry as means of communication between individuals as well as countries, and of the valuable role they play in the exchange of ideas in the fields of economy, science and culture;

Are driven by the same desire to strengthen ties between the citizens of their respective communities and to cooperate in the efforts that both agencies are exerting to design the educational model of this new millennium, of which interculturalism will be an essential element;

Are conscious of the possibilities that the collaboration of both agencies can offer to the field of education;

Therefore: a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby signed in due form and agreeing to the contents established in the following Agreements:



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## **I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

**I.1.** The Ministry and the Department have established as the main objectives for the cooperative programs that will be developed under this MOU the improvement of the quality and extent of the teaching of Spanish language and culture in the State of Delaware and the English language and North American culture in Spain, in order to:

- a. Promote relationships between citizens of the State of Delaware and Spain;
- b. Foster knowledge and appreciation of the culture that both communities share;
- c. Provide students who enroll in these programs with a bilingual and multicultural education that trains them for future personal, academic and professional success; and
- d. Provide professional growth opportunities to teachers of the State of Delaware and Spain.

**I.2.** All plans and programs subject to this MOU, will promote high quality academic standards for students in the learning of English as well as in that of Spanish.

## **II. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS**

The basic means of cooperation between the Ministry and the Department will be implemented through the following programs:

**II.1. Visiting Teachers:** Each school year, the Department and the districts will collaborate with the Ministry in the selection of a number of qualified teachers from Spain who may be hired under local contract in elementary, middle and/or secondary classrooms in school districts in the State of Delaware.

II.1.1. The Department, in collaboration with the Ministry, will promote the assignment of teachers from Spain who are specially qualified to teach in bilingual programs and/or teach Spanish language and culture, in school districts of the State of Delaware.

II.1.2. These teachers will be considered visiting teachers, and they will be involved in the educational system of the State as established in the following paragraphs of this Memorandum.



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II.1.3. The Department and the Ministry agree to invite school districts to take part in the program and will select those that will participate each year.

II.1.4. The teachers may be contracted by the school districts for one to three school years, unless exceptional circumstances occur as to require modification of said time limits, with previous permission granted by the Ministry, the Department and the school districts.

**II.1.5. The Department:**

II.1.5.1. Will determine, together with the Ministry, which school districts will participate in the program and the number of visiting teachers to be assigned to each district.

II.1.5.2. Will designate experts to evaluate the ability of visiting teachers to teach in the schools of the State in collaboration with the school districts.

II.1.5.3. Will proceed to assist teachers in obtaining the necessary visas and authorizations from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

II.1.5.4. Will collaborate with the Ministry in preparing and implementing the in-service training courses for participating teachers as outlined in this Memorandum.

**II.1.6. The Ministry:**

II.1.6.1. Will announce vacant positions to be filled by visiting teachers each school year, will implement the pre-selection process of those who have the required academic and professional requirements for the position and will collaborate in the selection process, for which the school districts and the Department are responsible.

II.1.6.2. Will defray the travel costs for the experts designated by the Department and the school districts to make a final selection in Spain of those teachers pre-selected by the Ministry. The number of experts will be agreed on by the Ministry and the Department in relation to the number of positions offered.

II.1.6.3. Will organize in-service training courses for visiting teachers in collaboration with the Department and the school districts.

II.1.7. The Ministry and the Department will collaborate to facilitate visas to the selected teachers.



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## **II. 2. In-Service Training Programs for Teachers and Administrators**

- II.2.1. The Ministry will promote the enrollment of teachers and administrators of the school districts in courses by Spanish universities for the teaching of Spanish language and culture, of Spanish as a second and foreign language, etc., offering scholarships to defray part of the costs of said courses.
- II.2.2. The Department and school districts will take the necessary steps to recognize the cited courses taken at accredited Spanish universities.

## **II.3. International Spanish Academies**

The Department and the Ministry can cooperate in the creation of a network of English/Spanish bilingual schools known as *International Spanish Academies*. The main objective of this initiative will be to help the enhancing of a high-level bilingual education with the support of the means of the Ministry and other Spanish institutions dedicated to the promoting of Spanish, such as the Cervantes Institute.

In addition to participating in the programs mentioned in previous clauses of this Memorandum, the Ministry will offer the schools integrated in this network: access to double academic certification by facilitating the equivalence of the studies completed to those in the Spanish educational system, specific teacher training activities in the United States, sister schools in Spain, participation in the International Foundation of Sister Schools sponsored by the Ministry, pedagogical guidance, development of educational projects with Spanish schools using Internet support and, when available, classroom and curricular materials and resources.

## **II.4. Other ongoing initiatives**

- II.4.1. **Internet - World Wide Web:** The Ministry and the Department agree to promote the development of e-mail exchanges among students and educators in classrooms in the State of Delaware and Spain, along with maintaining a web site for the program.
- II.4.2. **Student/Educator Exchange Program:** The Ministry and the Department agree to discuss the establishment of exchanges between schools in the State of Delaware and Spain for groups of up to 15 students accompanied by a teacher, for a period of time of about three weeks, timing them so that each group would attend regular school in the host country, apart from participating in other activities organized by the receiving school.



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### **III. EVALUATION**

Annually, representatives of the Ministry and the Department will develop a report relative to the application of this program. This report will suggest proposals for improvement.

### **IV. DURATION**

- IV.1.** This MOU is established for four years, and can be canceled by any party on demand, provided that at least six months notice is given in writing.
- IV.2.** During the term of the MOU, any party may add provisions for its improvement when agreed upon by all parties.
- IV.3.** Unless canceled by any party, this MOU will automatically be renewed for one-year periods, until a new agreement that substitutes or modifies it is signed.
- IV.4.** This MOU is executed by the Department and the Ministry subject to the availability of budget funds.

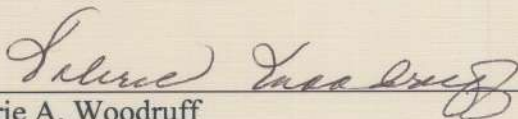


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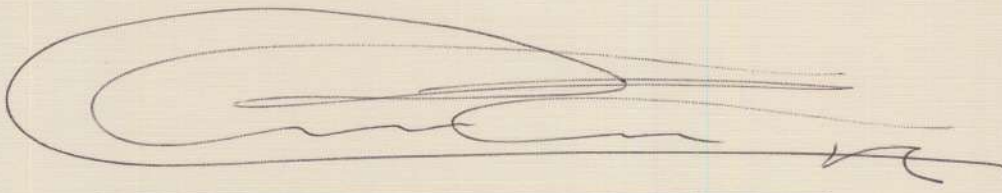
This MOU is signed in English and in Spanish and both versions are equally valid in Delaware and the Kingdom of Spain.

Signed in Dover, Delaware, on April 27, 2006.

Representing the Department of Education of the State of Delaware,

  
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Valerie A. Woodruff  
Secretary of Education

Representing the Ministry of Education and Science of Spain,

  
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Miguel Martínez López  
Education and Science Commissioner, Embassy of Spain to the U.S.