



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

The Visiting Teachers from Germany Program is intended to help schools provide quality instruction in a variety of crucial needs disciplines such as mathematics, science and special education to Delaware students by supplying a pool of certified teaching candidates.

The candidates are pre-screened by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation 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 at least a Master's Degree (1<sup>st</sup> State German Exam) and hold a valid teaching certificate for the Federal Republic of Germany (2<sup>nd</sup> State German Exam). Many candidates have an additional Master's Degree in education or pedagogy. All candidates also have had at least three years of successful teaching experience in Germany. 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 and pay an annual \$600 visa processing fee.

Districts interested in hiring a Visiting Teacher from Germany 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 teachers in fields of critical shortages.
- To increase global awareness and understanding in the school community.
- To increase understanding of the culture and pedagogy of Germany.

- To develop lifelong international professional relationships and friendships.

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

- The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and the Senat von Berlin, represented by the Agency in charge of schools in the federal state of Berlin (SENSCHUL) signed a memorandum of understanding in January, 2008.
- In the fall, Checkpoint Charlie publishes a call for teachers and pre-selects possible candidates.
- In February, Delaware superintendents and principals receive information on the Visiting Teacher Programs. 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 Berlin. Video-taped interviews are then posted on the web so that districts may have a final say in the hiring of any teachers.
- From May through July, selected candidates are assigned to a school, schedule an interview at the American Embassy in Berlin to obtain a J1 visa, and prepare to move to Delaware.
- In early July, Visiting Teachers participate in a workshop in Berlin focusing on life and teaching in the U.S.A.
- In July/August, 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 schedules an on-site visit with the Visiting Teacher and local school administrators.

- Districts that host a Visiting Teacher from Germany are eligible to send district educators to participate in the Educational Enrichment Program (EEP) in Berlin and Wittenberg in the summer.

### **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 Berlin.
- To select candidates and recommend them to districts requesting a visiting teacher.
- To work with the
- To provide an orientation course, *Living and Teaching in Delaware*.
- To act as liaison between local schools and the Checkpoint Charlie representative in Berlin.

### **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 pay an annual \$600 visa-processing fee to the Amity Institute in New York.
- To provide a fellow teacher/mentor, preferably in the same building, to provide guidance and support for the visiting teacher from Germany. (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:**

**Gregory Fulkerson, Ph.D.**  
**Education Associate, World Languages and International Education**  
**Delaware Department of Education**  
401 Federal St., Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19801  
Phone: 302.735.4180  
[gfulkerson@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:gfulkerson@doe.k12.de.us)