

Memorandum of Understanding between Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education, The North Carolina State Board of Education, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction For Cooperation in K-12 Education

The Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education (JPDE), the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE), and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop collaborative programs in K-12 education. This MOU recognizes that:

- JPDE, SBE and NCDPI have built a successful relationship through mutual exchange and shared values, and that this MOU will renew the relationship established at the signing of their previous MOUs on May 1, 2008 and May 7, 2012;
- Both Jiangsu Province and North Carolina are committed to strengthening the global competence of their students;
- Educational collaboration and exchange are effective vehicles for fostering the development of global competence and mutual understanding;
- Partnerships have already been established between schools in Jiangsu Province and in North Carolina, and
- Institutions of higher education in Jiangsu Province and North Carolina are already collaborating on a variety of projects.

I. Goals

- To strengthen knowledge and understanding of each other's countries and cultures among K-12 educational leaders, educators and students,
- To Facilitate the development of programs and activities which will foster mutual understanding, and
- To develop a framework for a sustainable relationship between JPDE, SBE, and NCDPI

II. Activities

JPDE, SBE, and NCDPI agree to facilitate and support the elementary, middle and high school partnerships already established between schools in Jiangsu Province and in North Carolina. They further agree to encourage the development of additional school partnerships.

Collaborations between JPDE, SBE, and NCDPI will focus on the themes of

- Confucius Classrooms construction
- Math and science education
- Language education
- Culture and arts education
- Lesson planning and research
- Business Climate
- Education as a tool for economic development

Either party may propose additional topics for consideration. JPDE, SBE/NCDPI will jointly determine the appropriate method to address these themes. Activities might include but not be limited to:

- Exchanges of teachers and students
- Study Abroad opportunities for students in Jiangsu, such as JESIE's Discover Jiangsu, Insight into Jiangsu - Education and Industry or in North Carolina
- Joint conferences – Such as the US-China Summit and the Jiangsu International Forum for School Principals.
- Professional development seminars for teachers and principals
- Collaborative classroom and student projects
- Clustering of Confucius Classroom schools in North Carolina and Jiangsu
- Sister school relationships between Jiangsu and North Carolina schools

To the degree possible, technology should be utilized to facilitate dialogue and collaborations.

III. Duration

The duration of this MOU shall be five years, beginning May 5, 2016, and may be renegotiated upon expiration depending on mutual interest. This MOU may be terminated by any party with six months advance written notice.

IV. Framework

JPDE, SBE/NCDPI will serve as coordinating agencies for their respective governments for this MOU. Each will designate an appropriate person to maintain communication.

The Director-General of Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education and the Chairman of the State Board of Education or their designees will meet annually alternating between Nanjing and Raleigh to discuss educational issues of mutual interest, evaluate joint activities and plan for future cooperative programs.

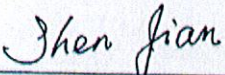
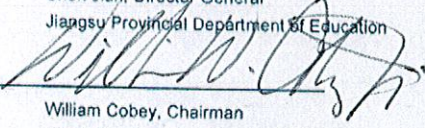
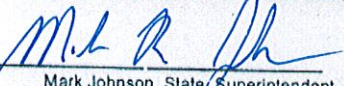
It is mutually understood that financing for any arrangements must be identified by all parties before proposed collaborative activities can be finalized.

All activities must be in accord with the policies, regulations and laws of the respective countries.

Jiangsu Education Services for International Exchange (JESIE) and the Go Global NC (GGNC) will respectively serve as the contacting agencies for JPDE and SBE/NCDPI, and take the responsibility for fluent communication between JPDE and SBE/NCDPI and implementation of the activities in this MOU.

VI. Signatures

This MOU shall be effective May 5, 2016. It is signed in duplicate, in English and Chinese Languages, each version being equally valid.

 _____ Shen Jian, Director General Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education	_____ Date
 _____ William Cobey, Chairman North Carolina State Board of Education	<u>4/6/17</u> Date
 _____ Mark Johnson, State Superintendent North Carolina Department of Public Instruction	<u>4/6/17</u> Date