

Global Partner Schools

- North Carolina in the World -

NC in the World – Making globally competitive students truly *global*...

North Carolina in the World is a statewide collaborative effort to prepare students to thrive in the global community of the 21st Century. For more information about the project, go to ciu.northcarolina.edu and click on NC in the World. For teacher resources on international education, go to www.ncintheworld.org.

NC in the World leads the Global Partner Schools program. This document will tell you how to begin working with NC in the World to create a Global Partner School program in your school. In the following pages, we will discuss the first year of the program, with issues such as:

[What is a Global Partner School?](#)

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For a more detailed manual or to create your own partnership program, contact NC in the World. Contact information can be found on the last page of this document.

What is a Global Partner School?

A Global Partner School (GPS) is any North Carolina K12 school that works with NC in the World to create a partnership with a school abroad. Their partner school may be in China, Denmark, or Mexico, as these are countries where NC in the World has developed the program. While it is important and appropriate that schools develop partnerships in other countries as well, NC in the World's program is currently limited to these three.

GPS's are schools that recognize the need to develop their students' knowledge and skills about the world, and that use direct contact with schools abroad as a way of developing these knowledge and skills. They work alongside their partner school abroad to create:

- **Collaborative learning projects through technology**
- **Regular opportunities for international dialogue**
- **Short-term visits to each others' schools**
- **Exchanges of teachers and/or students.**

For more information about the list of activities above, see the section titled "What activities would happen in my school?"

How does my school get involved?

Schools follow several key steps to become involved. They are:

1. Discussions among Key People

The school principal, other key administrators, and teacher leaders must discuss whether the program would work at their school, taking into account their level of interest as well as their availability for the travel, communication, funding (not provided by NC in the World), and evaluation components of the program. They may want to include NC in the World representatives in their discussions.

2. Application to the Program

Request an application form from NC in the World. In the application, you will share information about your school and ideas that you hope to make happen in the program, and you will identify a “partnership coordinator,” whose role is defined in a later section. The principal and partnership coordinator will sign the application, affirming their school’s commitment to the program should they be accepted and should a partner school abroad be found.

3. Acceptance and Matching by NC in the World

You will be notified of whether your school is accepted. Using your application form and its contacts abroad, NC in the World will match your school with a partner school in China, Denmark, or Mexico, depending on the preference you indicate on your application.

What activities happen in a Global Partner School?

Partnership Development Abroad

For a school that is new to the program, it is important to develop a strong relationship with the partner school from the beginning of the program. Administrators and teachers must get to know each other and must work together to define what will happen in their partnership. With these goals in mind, NC in the World leads a development trip to the partner country, in which the NC principal, partnership coordinator, and possibly others learn about their partner school’s country and then work with their partners to plan out the first year of their relationship.

Ongoing Partnership Activities

○ Collaborative learning projects through technology

Effective use of communications technologies in the classroom supports a global, 21st Century education, and makes it possible for students to work with counterparts from their partner school on many types of projects. Beyond just having discussions, some technologies allow international teams of students to co-create and present learning products. In particular, NC in the World advocates the use of web conferencing and makes it available to Global Partner Schools (www.illuminate.com).

○ Regular opportunities for international dialogue

International dialogue generally follows a curricular theme and allows students to see different perspectives from what they are accustomed to. International dialogue may be synchronous, with students talking together live and via web or video conferencing, or they may be asynchronous, using email, weblogs, threaded forums, or other means. Class

discussions with your partner school are also a great way for students to get to know each others' cultures and possibly to practice their language skills.

- **Short-term visits to each others' schools**

Whether bringing groups of teachers and students to your school, or sending representatives from your school to your partners, face-to-face interaction is an invaluable experience in global education. NC in the World has written suggestions for how to conduct inbound and outbound visits in your school and can share these suggestions upon request.

- **Exchanges of teachers and/or students**

Exchanges of teachers and students allow for deep immersion into each other's culture. Often, exchanges allow teachers to co-teach a class or unit or allow students to study for a prolonged period in their partner school.

What are the responsibilities of the people involved?

- **Roles of the Principal and Partnership Coordinator**

In both NC school and the partner school abroad, the principals and partnership coordinators lead the partnership. The principals set the vision and general direction of the partnership, and set goals for what will happen. The partnership coordinator is someone who has a daily hand in curriculum, such as a teacher or curriculum director. The partnership coordinator is primarily responsible for putting partnership activities into classrooms, ensuring that the partnership increases students' knowledge and skills about the world, and maintaining regular communication with the partner school. Both the principal and the partnership coordinator build support for the program among the school community, and serve as part of the partnership committee.

- **Role of the Partnership Committee**

Global Partner Schools will require the support of people beyond just the principal and partnership coordinator. Schools should pull together a group of people that can help with fundraising, logistical support (particularly in travel elements of the program), and other activities related to the partnership. This committee should include teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community representatives like business and civic leaders.

- **Role of NC in the World**

NC in the World recruits schools in North Carolina and abroad that would be good candidates for the Global Partner Schools program. Those schools that are accepted to the program are matched by NC in the World with a partner school abroad. NC in the World leads the development trip abroad, which includes orientation and follow-up workshops, and then offers subsequent training and support to develop partnership activities.

Who do I contact for more information?

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