



Rheinland-Pfalz



**Joint Declaration of Intent
on the Partnership between
the South Carolina Department of Education, USA
and
the Ministry of Education, Science, Further Education and Cultural Affairs
of Rhineland-Palatinate, Federal Republic of Germany**

I. Background and Resolution

The South Carolina Department of Education and the Ministry of Education, Science, Further Education and Cultural Affairs of Rhineland-Palatinate

- recognize the importance that the English and German languages carry as a means of communication between individuals as well as countries, and the valuable role they play in the exchange of ideas in the fields of economy, education, science, and culture; and
- are driven by the same desire to reinforce bonds between the citizens of their respective communities and to cooperate in actions carried out by both institutions in order to develop the educational model of the new millennium in which global competence will be a basic component;
- are convinced of the possibilities that the collaboration of both agencies can offer to the field of education by providing a mechanism to explore best practices in our respective educational systems,
- therefore, the parties do hereby mutually agree on the implementation of the points enumerated hereafter.

II. General Principles

The objective of this partnership is to define the terms of cooperation which would allow the development of shared educational activities endeavoring to:

- support the teaching and the learning of the two languages and respective cultures;
- further the cause of cultural exchange between students by supporting and encouraging schools to establish school partnerships and exchange programs;
- facilitate teacher exchanges associated with the project;
- promote administrator exchanges in order to facilitate a better knowledge of each educational system; and
- provide the teachers of South Carolina and Rhineland-Palatinate the opportunity for professional learning opportunities.

The actions which are stated within the framework of this alliance would apply to all levels of the educational systems involved.

III. Pairings between Schools

a. Exchange Programs:

1. The Ministry of Education of Rhineland-Palatinate and the South Carolina Department of Education will identify schools eager to develop and maintain lasting exchange programs which could be either virtual or face-to-face. Any costs related to these exchanges, including but not limited to the cost of equipment required for virtual exchange would be the responsibility of the local schools.
2. Both parties, as a way to support the development of advanced proficiency in German, will offer students in South Carolina options of taking the Deutsches Sprachdiplom (DSD) I and II or A1/A2 tests. Successfully passing the DSD Level II provides the student with the language requirements for studies at a university in Germany. These exams are aligned to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency scale on which the South Carolina Standard for World Language Proficiency is based. The German Language Advisor/Coordinator located in the Department of Education in Atlanta will lead the training of teachers in these exams, as well as in the administration and scoring of said exams.

b. Support for Teachers and Professional Learning:

1. The Ministry of Education of Rhineland-Palatinate and the South Carolina Department of Education will facilitate exchanges between teachers and administrators of the two educational systems.
2. The Ministry of Education of Rhineland-Palatinate and the South Carolina Department of Education will encourage teachers taking part in exchange programs to take part in common cultural activities, seminars or any other opportunities likely to promote the study of the German and American culture, support quality teaching of German and English, and develop deeper understanding of both languages and cultures.
3. The Ministry of Education of Rhineland-Palatinate and the South Carolina Department of Education will support quality teaching by communicating relevant professional learning opportunities in their respective regions to the other party.

IV. Program Action Plan and Evaluation

- a. The Ministry and the Department will jointly define an action plan and program evaluation, which will be reviewed every two years by the South Carolina State Superintendent of Schools and the Minister of Education of Rhineland-Palatinate or their respective designees. This action plan and program evaluation will allow for authorized adaptation and evolution. For this purpose, the partners will meet every two years at meetings alternating between Rhineland-Palatinate and South

Carolina, provided that funding allows. Evaluation meetings may take place via teleconference if economic conditions prevent face-to-face meetings.

- b. Each party will appoint a project manager to serve as the point of contact for this undertaking.

V. Duration of the Agreement and Amendments

- a. The term of this DOI will be four (4) years, beginning on the date of execution by both parties, at which time it is subject to renewal through review and amendment, by extension, or by reauthorization by the participating parties.
- b. This DOI may be terminated at any time by the mutual agreement of the parties, or it may be terminated unilaterally by any party hereto by providing written notice to the other party six (6) month(s) prior to the termination.


VI. It is Mutually Agreed and Understood By and Between the Said Parties That:


- a. This Joint Declaration of Intent in no way restricts participants from involvement in similar activities with other public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- b. Nothing in this Joint Declaration of Intent shall be construed as obligating the parties to expend funds or to provide resources or be involved in any obligation for future payment of money or provision of resources.
- c. No modification of this DOI shall be binding upon the parties hereto, unless the DOI is amended in writing, with said amendment being approved by both parties.

Signed in **Mainz**, Rhineland-Palatinate, Federal Republic of Germany, on **March 9, 2015** in English and in German and recognized by the Minister of Education, Science, Further Education and Cultural Affairs of Rhineland-Palatinate and the State Superintendent of the South Carolina Department of Education. Both versions are equally valid in the State of South Carolina and in Rhineland-Palatinate.

Representing the South Carolina
Department of Education

Representing the State of Rhineland-
Palatinate


Molly Spearman
State Superintendent of Education
South Carolina
United States of America


Vera Reiß
Minister of Education, Science, Further
Education and Cultural Affairs
Rhineland-Palatinate
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