



2020 Short-Term (2-week) Teacher Exchange Program (JFK School, Berlin, Germany) Application

“Experiential learning in international contexts is a means of invoking a deeper understanding of self, culture, and literacy practices and exploration of ways to use this knowledge for educational change” (Dantas, 2007).

In Poudre School District (PSD), we encourage employees to increase and improve their global and cultural awareness, cross-cultural communication, and respect for diverse thinking. We also strive to support teachers as they improve their ability to use effective, innovative, and culturally relevant instructional approaches.

This program will support 4 PSD teachers, based on a screened application process, to travel to Berlin, Germany, to participate in a teacher exchange. The John F. Kennedy School is a bilingual, bicultural German-American public school in Berlin, Germany with whom PSD has had a partnership since 1983; the partnership includes short-term teacher visits, where German teachers spend 2 weeks in PSD schools and participate in a variety of American educational experiences. The JFK School has invited PSD to do the same.

The program will include 5 or more days of observation and participation in classrooms at the JFK School, lodging with a current JFK teacher or family, cultural experiences, and pre-and post-trip meetings. Each participant will be required to share the experience with other staff members and to design and complete a project that will directly benefit students in the goal areas listed below. The program will pay for travel, lodging, and activity costs up to \$2500 per participant and is **not** designed as a means to investigate whether teaching at an international school is in your future. Individuals selected to participate will be asked to cover a portion of the costs, approximately \$500, including a portion of the airfare, some meals, and some excursions or activities. Approximate dates for the trip will be early June, 2020.

Eligibility: Current PSD employees whose positions have been confirmed for the 2020-21 school year who have a strong desire to expand their global and cultural awareness and improve their ability to provide culturally relevant learning opportunities to PSD students and families. Selection will be based on quality of application, alignment to program goals, and principal recommendation. Preference will be given to employees who have not participated in PSD employee incentive fund programs in the past five years. The ability to speak German is not required.

Program Goals: This program is designed for participants who seek to:

- Acquire or improve cross-cultural understanding and global awareness and provide similar opportunities for students.
- Enhance their ability to create and use a variety of effective instructional approaches that increase students' global awareness.
- Improve their capacity to design and use learning and engagement strategies that are culturally relevant.

Participant Expectations: This program is designed for participants who will:

- Positively represent Poudre School District during both the immersion experience and project implementation.
- Interact professionally and respectfully with all participants, program coordinators, and representatives from the school and community.
- Participate in all program activities and instruction with an open mind, prepared for learning and growth.

Requirements:

- Attend pre-program meetings in March-May, 2020 and submit a project plan before September, 2020
- By December 2020, complete an approved project that reflects your experiences and is directly relevant and immediately applicable to your work and aligned with program goals
- Provide a personal presentation to staff as determined by you and the program coordinator in PSD including reflections on your experiences and an overview of your project