



## PROGRAM: SISTER SCHOOL PARTNER PROGRAM

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As a key component to the Georgia International Workforce Development Initiative (GWI), the Sister School Partner Program seeks to provide meaningful, career-focused international connections between schools in Georgia and those in our regions supported by our Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) partners. Currently, the Georgia Department of Education can provide global partnerships with schools in Saxony, Germany; Bavaria, Germany; and Nancy-Metz, France.

### Two Types of Partnerships

*Culture and Language Partnerships* – Partnerships of this type are generally coordinated by a World Languages teacher who teaches the language of the partner country and focus on projects that support development of language and cultural-proficiencies.

*Culture and Subject-Area Partnerships* – Partnerships of this type link any subject area in a Georgia school with a classroom teaching that same subject-area in the partner country. These partnerships focus on collaborative international projects that support cultural and subject-area proficiencies. Language proficiency is not a requirement as students in the schools abroad will demonstrate exceptionally high-level proficiency in English; many of these students attend English immersion schools.

### Program Requirements

1. A willingness of the school to sign on for at least one full school year.
2. Monthly communication between partners.
3. A guarantee by school leadership and the school's technology department that teachers will have the ability to communicate with their partner at least monthly via Skype, email, or some other electronic means and that that this connection is maintained and made a priority.
4. Work on a common student research project that will be delivered and archived at the end of the year (i.e. a video or powerpoint presentation of student experience learning about their partner area). The research theme will be provided at the beginning of the school year.
5. Willingness of teachers and administrators in the school to learn about the job expectations of their counterparts abroad.
6. A willingness to research and provide opportunities for students and stakeholders to connect with global businesses in your community.

### Support from the Georgia Department of Education

1. GaDOE staff will work with our contacts in Ministries of Education in our MOU partner states to find a willing and appropriate school and a teacher to serve as direct point of contact.
2. GaDOE staff will maintain ongoing communication with your school and our MOU partner in order to assist in project development and to help identify additional sources of support.
3. GaDOE will provide guidance to assist your school in engagement with international businesses in your community and the greater Southeast region.
4. Program Expansion Possibility

We will work with foundations, consulates and other groups to attempt to provide opportunities for student, teacher, or administrative exchange/travel abroad with partner schools. Since there are no current funds to cover the cost of travel, this option is not required for participation.

### Contact Information

If your school is interested in developing a Sister-School Partnership, please contact Dr. Greg Barfield, Program Specialist for Global Initiatives for France and South Korea and Michaela Claus-Nix, Program Specialist for World Languages and Workforce Initiatives for Germany. Our program specialist will work with our partners overseas to identify a school partner, make the initial invitation between schools, and provide ongoing support during the partnership. Please be aware that the number of partnerships is limited based on available schools.

Thank you for your interest in providing real-world connections for our students with partners overseas. Our global business partners have indicated that the best competitive advantage any student can have when applying for a job in the current business environment is evidence of a willingness to collaborate on diverse teams with international partners. We are so fortunate to have schools in France and Germany that are eager to work with partners in Georgia, and we look forward to facilitating partnerships that might last a lifetime.

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