

**Joint Declaration of Intent
between
the Kansas State Department of Education
and
the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad, Bonn, Germany**

Representatives of the Kansas Department of Education, hereafter referred to as the "KSDE," and representatives of the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad in Bonn, Germany, hereafter referred to as the "GCASA," (Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen, ZfA) have agreed to cooperate in the coordination and implementation of German language programs conducted in line with the cultural relations and education policy of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany. Both parties are mutually;

- inspired by a common desire to promote global understanding in response to an increasingly complex world;
- convinced that languages are key to mutual knowledge and understanding and that the English and German languages are crucial to global communication in economics, science, history, and culture;
- desiring to collaborate in the field of language education and training, including intercultural elements;

Both parties now sign this Declaration of Intent in accordance with the general principles established as follows:

I. General Principles

The KSDE and GCASA (ZfA) mutually understand that cooperative programs developed under this *Declaration of Intent* will:

1. Advocate for high-quality instruction in the German language and culture in the state of Kansas;
2. Share resources, develop and improve tools for teaching the German language, and strive for better performance of students and teachers;
3. Support networking of teachers, schools, and students in an effort to exchange best practices, ideas, and to create contacts and synergies in the field of language training;
4. Promote mobility between Germany and Kansas for the benefit of students and teachers, and encourage school partnerships;III

5. Allow teachers and educational administrators to improve their knowledge by participating in training and education programs; and
6. Foster cultural and educational ties between the citizens of the respective communities/civil societies.

The German Language Consultant (GLC) of the GCASA (ZfA) will bear responsibility on behalf of the GCASA (ZfA) for coordination and administration of the German language program in Kansas. The GLC will carry out these responsibilities in coordination with partners, including the German Academic Exchange Service and the Educational Exchange Service, in line with the cultural relations and education policy of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.

II. Cooperative Programs

The cooperation between the KSDE and the GCASA (ZfA) will be implemented as follows:

1. Promotion of the German language:
Inform teachers, schools, students, and parents about opportunities for improving language skills and provide on- and off-line teaching materials on the German language and culture.
2. Collaboration between schools:
Link schools through specific educational projects. Together, these schools will be able to develop educational, linguistic, and cultural projects through information and communication technologies (distance exchanges for students and sharing of resources or creation of teaching tools for teachers). Each school will be responsible for conducting these projects.
3. Student exchanges:
Facilitate internship opportunities for students in the German and American partner regions or communities; assist students from the German and American partner regions/communities in their search for internships.
4. Teacher exchanges and in-service training:
In coordination with partners, promote teacher exchanges between Germany and Kansas; promote short-term monitoring and in-service opportunities for foreign-language and other subject-matter teachers to gain insight into how their subjects are taught in the partner region/community; encourage the exchange

of teaching methods and ideas, as well as that of any other information of mutual interest, through new technologies.

5. Educational and institutional cooperation:

Encourage Kansas educators and faculty involved in German language programs to participate in exchange seminars to enrich their knowledge of the teaching methods and practices of their German counterparts as well as their knowledge of the German educational system.

The GLC in Kansas will coordinate the aforementioned cooperative programs between the KSDE, the GCASA (ZfA), and teachers and students with participating German language programs.

III. Evaluation

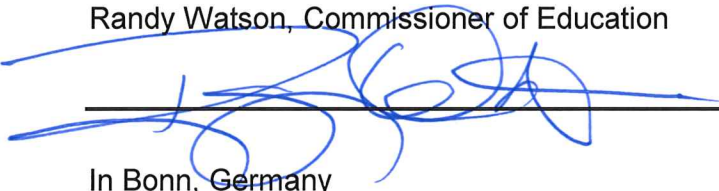
An annual joint report will assess the progress in implementing this Declaration and propose changes and improvements to programs, if necessary. A copy of the report will be sent to the Kansas Commissioner of Education, the GCASA (ZfA), and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington D.C.

IV. Duration This Declaration of Intent shall remain in place unless and until terminated by either party by written notice.

In Topeka, KS

On behalf of the Kansas Department of Education

Randy Watson, Commissioner of Education



In Bonn, Germany

On behalf of the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad

Irene Mrázek, German Language Consultant in Kansas

