

Memorandum of Agreement
between the
New York City Board of Education
and
The City University of New York
and the
Austrian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs

In recognition of the many common features, and complementary strengths, which the New York City Board of Education, The City University of New York (as the major source for pre-service and in-service teacher and administrator training for New York City Schools) and the Austrian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs share, this Memorandum of Agreement is hereby established.

Technological advancements of recent years have brought distant countries closer together, enabling them to share both information and experiences to their mutual benefit. When two countries or localities have significant commonalities, there is all the more reason for collaboration. Such is the case with Austria and New York City. There are strikingly similar features which invite collaboration: New York City and Austria are each responsible for the education of similar size populations; both are traditional havens for immigrant populations, both have a United Nations seat in their respective jurisdictions, making them international regions, and both enjoy a central sphere of influence in education as in other matters. New York City serves as a model for large cities in the United States and Austria, assumes an important role within the European Union as well as in the developing process of the central-eastern European countries.

The purpose of this memorandum is to facilitate cooperative work and provide enrichment to the education programs of both countries through activities including, but not limited to, exchanges of key educational leaders and policy making practitioners at both, the teacher training level and the school/system level; student, faculty and administrator exchanges; collaborative school projects especially supported through the use of new media such as the Internet and video-conferencing, mutual technical assistance on both structural issues, curriculum matters, and human resources.

ARTICLE I - Initial Areas of Interest

With the ultimate goal of engaging in a comprehensive cooperative effort at all levels and in all curriculum areas, this agreement will address the spectrum of experiences from teacher and administrator training to school activities. This initiative follows a previous agreement in which the fields of interest were identified as vocational/technical education, bilingual/multicultural education, school administration/structure, school support services including social work, cooperation in meeting staffing needs and in the curricula of academic areas where commonality exists. In addition the current agreement also includes the development of school projects which make use of new media such as Internet, technological enhancement of instruction and video-conferencing.

ARTICLE II - Professional Intervisitation

Each party to this agreement will assume the responsibility of supporting travel and the accommodations of its visitors to the partner country. The host country will assume

responsibility of establishing the program of activities in consultation with the partner country.

ARTICLE III - Conferences

As appropriate, conferences and symposia on topics consistent with the goals of this Agreement will be co-sponsored by the partners of this agreement. Costs for the conferences will be discussed and included in the planning process.

ARTICLE IV - Further Activities

- a) This Agreement will continue with the exchange of information that was already started in the previous agreement. Information to be exchanged may cover: the school curriculum, school project ideas for using new media in an efficient and pedagogically sound way, the organization of the educational program, teacher and administrator pre-service and in-service training, support services, the administrative structure and training/preparation of administrators, and other appropriate topics.
- b) Following this exchange of information, each party will independently determine its priorities as specifically as possible. These priorities will then be transmitted to the partners who will prepare a proposal for addressing these established needs. Before the process is finalized, there shall be consultation among the parties to ensure that the goals, objectives and needs of the partners are met.
- c) On the coordinated basis, teams of leaders in these established fields will visit partner sites to establish appropriate cooperative work plans and initiate and support innovative programs in the various fields of education. Resulting activities may include collaborative school projects, evaluation and assistance with local teacher training programs, curriculum review and modification, mutual assistance with human resource problems, and the development of grant proposals which seek financial support for initiatives and programs collaboratively developed in New York City and Austria.
- d) Where appropriate, the activities described herein will be coordinated by the Austria-American Educational Cooperation Association.
- e) Methods of determining the effectiveness of the various programs and activities will be jointly developed. The results of these assessments will be shared among the partners and then appropriately publicized.

This agreement is intended to serve as a guide to a collaborative effort between the parties mentioned, and may be modified based on an annual review.

November 1998

Signed by:

Rudolph F. Crew, Chancellor, New York City Board of Education
Louise Mirrer, Vice Chancellor, The City University of New York
Elisabeth Gehrler, Minister, Austrian Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs