

California-Shanghai Principal Exchange Program



Overview

The “California-Shanghai Principal Exchange Program”(SH-CA PEP) is one of the educational exchange programs initiated by the *Letter of Intent on Education Cooperation*, signed in November 2005 between the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and Shanghai Municipal Education Commission (SHMEC). It aims to promote cooperation between public schools in California and Shanghai, China’s largest and most prosperous metropolis.

Designed as a two-way exchange to provide educators in both Shanghai and California the opportunity to globalize their education systems, this program is fully funded by the SHMEC, with no monetary cost to the participating California school districts.

Past and Current Exchange Activities

In May 2008, the first group of principals from ten distinguished K-12 schools in Shanghai selected by the SHMEC came to California. They shadowed their counterparts at four participating California school districts for four weeks.

In October 2008, a California delegation comprised of CSBA and district administrators, principals, and a few host family members from participating California school districts paid a weeklong visit to China, hosted by their reciprocating schools in Shanghai.

In October 2009, a delegation of 16 highly select school principals from Shanghai came to California. They visited various schools in southern California and participated in educational leadership seminars for two weeks, and shadowed their counterparts for six weeks and served as guest principals in seven

over

participating California school districts (Alhambra USD, San Gabriel USD, Arcadia USD, Santa Monica-Malibu USD, San Carlos SD, Fremont Union HSD, and Santa Rosa City Schools). An exchange visit to the reciprocating schools in Shanghai for the California delegation has been scheduled between May and June 2010.

2010 Exchange Program

The Shanghai Municipal Education Commission has expressed its intention to institutionalize this program on a yearly basis. It is anticipated that another group of 18 guest principals from Shanghai will participate in the next round of California-Shanghai Principal Exchange Program, beginning in October 2010.

The goal of this program is to foster better understanding of the educational philosophies and structures of California and Shanghai schools. The two-way exchange is a benefit to the educational practices in both countries and of great help to students on both sides of the Pacific in preparing for the challenge and opportunities in the increasingly interconnected world of the 21st century.

To find out how your district/school can get involved in this program, please send your contact information, including the name of your district/school, your name and position, email address, office/cell phone numbers, to Professor Jenny Quan, the CSBA China Liaison, at jxquan12@yahoo.com.cn, or putiquan@gmail.com. She will be in contact with you to discuss how your district might participate in this exchange program.



*Presented to the CSBA Board of Directors
May 21, 2010*