

Exchange Visitor Program

Participating countries: Mexico and Spain

sponsored by
The Illinois State Board of Education
The Spanish and Mexico's Ministries of Education



Springfield, IL
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EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM WITH MEXICO AND SPAIN

- **Cooperation program based on a MOU signed by Each country's Ministry of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education**
- **The Spain's program started in New York and California in the 80s and in Illinois in the 90s**

SPAIN PROGRAM FACTS

- Current teachers participating in the US: 1180
- More than 200 new teachers every year
- Participating states: 28
- More than 750 schools with visiting teachers
- Visiting Teachers in Illinois: 190

WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?

- The Spanish Ministry of Education (ME) runs a yearly national call to recruit teacher candidates
- The ME makes a first screening of applicants and shortlist candidates
- Candidates are Highly Qualified teachers in Spain and receive the same status in Illinois

EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM: MEXICO

- ▶ Started in FY2008 with 9 teachers participating thus far.
- ▶ Recruitment announcements conducted by the ministry of education.
- ▶ Lottery system for selecting who participates.
- ▶ Intergovernmental agreement signed and dated by the superintendent.
- ▶ Travel and accommodations paid by the participating school district.
- ▶ Exchange visiting teachers on a J-1 Visa.

Participation Guidelines

- School districts with bilingual, immersion and world language programs

Districts' responsibilities

- ▶ Logistic support upon teachers' arrival
- ▶ District orientation
- ▶ School and “cultural” mentoring
- ▶ Feedback and positive reinforcement in the beginning
- ▶ Professional development opportunities

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- By December/January you should have expressed your interest in being a part of the program
- In March or April, representatives of the Illinois school districts interview candidates in Spain
- Travel expenses are paid by the Spanish Ministry of Education
- The selected Spanish teachers sign contracts with their corresponding school districts



What is the status of the teachers?

- Teachers come with a J-1 visa, valid for three years and sponsored by the ISBE
- Visiting teachers have a Highly Qualified Status and receive Type 50s teaching certificates from the ISBE
- The teaching certificate is valid for up to three years and is non-renewable

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM?

- Enhances the quality in bilingual, immersion and world language programs in your districts
- Fosters knowledge and appreciation of the cultural similarities and differences of the two communities

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM?

- Addresses problems associated with the availability of bilingual teachers in certain regions of the state
- Provides the teachers and students with a bilingual and multicultural atmosphere that trains them for future personal, academic, and professional success

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http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/spanish_exchange.htm