

## Responsible Officer Jessica Pruneda

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## The J Visa Process for Exchange Program Visiting Teachers

### **J-1 Visa Facts**

 The J-1 visa holder is required by Department of State regulations to obtain medical insurance coverage for him/herself and dependents for any illness or accident that may occur during the time in the program with no lapses in coverage.



### **Medical Insurance**



- Medical benefits of at least \$100,000 per accident or illness
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of \$25,000
- Medical evacuation in the amount of \$50,000 and
- Deductibles not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness





### The J Visa Process for Exchange Program Visiting Teachers

### **J-2 Visa Facts**

- For spouse and children under the age of 21
- May travel in and out of the U.S.
- May work with authorization from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
  - http://www.immihelp.com/j1-visa/j2-visa-ead-workpermit.html





## The J Visa Process for Exchange Program Visiting Teachers

#### **Reasons for Termination**

- Failure to maintain the required insurance coverage
- Engaging in unauthorized employment
- Termination/resignation of employment by hiring school
- Conviction of a crime





### **Current Contact Information**

- Exchange Visitors must contact visa sponsor to notify change of address
- October 2020
  - Address
  - Cell number
  - Hiring district
  - School name and address
  - Teaching position
  - Etc...
- Update annually





 Grace period for one and two-year participants, respectively:

**Visiting Teachers** 

June 30, 2021 June 30, 2022

Grace period for three year participants:

One month from end of program - 2023



## The J Visa Process for Exchange Program Visiting Teachers



## Sponsors and Districts must disclose costs and fees

Fingerprinting

(\$40.25 online + \$10.00 on site)

VIT Certificate/VIT Extension Certificate

(\$78.00 to District)

Program fee to ESC 13

(\$400 by October 30, 2020)

(\$100 by October 1, 2021)

(\$100 by October 1, 2022)



## **ESC 13 Program Sponsor**



- One time \$400 Administration Fee that is due October 30, 2020
- Covers the costs of required biannual redesignation Fees to the U.S. Department of State
- Other costs of program administration and coordination by sponsor







### Repeat Program

Exchange Teachers must reside for at least two years outside of the U.S. after successful completion of their most recent exchange teacher program before applying for additional teacher programs. They must fulfill all other requirements as set forth under Section 62.24(d) *Teacher Eligibility*.

No waivers anymore





## 2016 Changes to the Exchange Teacher Program Regulations

- Department of State revised regulations for the Exchange Visitor Program – Teachers (22 CFR Part 62)
- This rule is effective as of February 29, 2016.





#### **Cross-cultural Activity Component**

- Exchange visitors are not only hired to fill a vacant teaching position.
- Schools support their exchange teachers in the effort to create cross-cultural experiences for their students and the wider community.
  - At school
  - Virtual
- Annual reports now required
  - Dates of activities
  - Description (topic, attendees, overview, location)
  - Impact on community





### **Program Extensions**

- Beyond three years may be requested by the sponsor
  - Request from school
  - Narrative: cultural exchange impact
  - Cross-cultural activities report included
- Program and processing fees apply
  - +367 to Department of State
  - Additional fee to sponsor





### **Program Extensions**

- Sole discretion of Department of State to approve
- Submit 3 months prior to beginning date of extension
- VIT extension certificate issued by TEA





 Thank you for your cooperation in compliance with DoS regulations.





# Texas-Spain Visiting International Teacher Program



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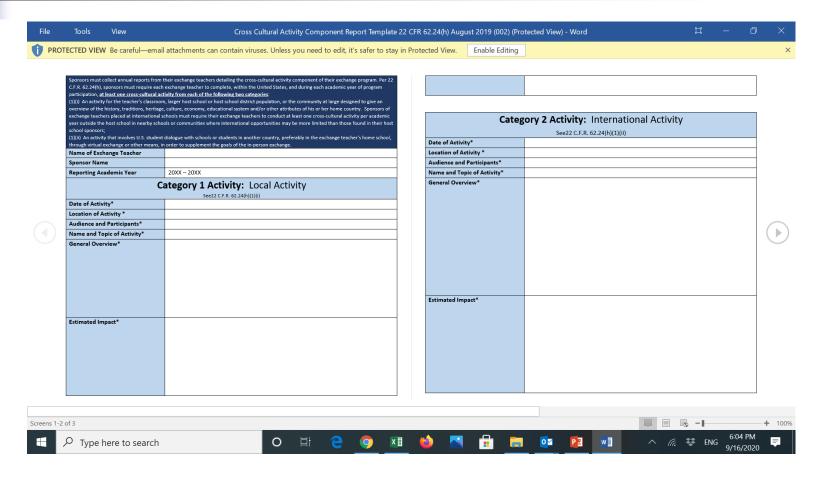
#### **Involvement of schools**

- The new regulations stress the importance of cultural exchange.
- Teachers are participating in an exchange visitor program and are not only hired to fill a vacant teaching position.
- Schools understand this perspective and support their exchange teachers in the effort to create cross-cultural experiences for their students and the wider community.



- Requirements for cross-cultural activity:
  - Teachers will submit a report that includes:
    - the teacher's name
    - the date(s) of each activity
    - the location of each activity
    - the audience for and participants in each activity
    - a general overview of each activity, including topic
    - the estimated impact of each activity

## **Cultural Report Template**





- Requirements for cross-cultural activity:
  - First activity for the teacher's classroom, larger host school, or school district
  - Second activity involves U.S. student dialogue with schools or students in another country, through virtual exchange



- As program sponsor, ESC 13:
  - Ensures Responsible Officer (RO)/Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) collects annual reports
  - Reviews reports
  - Monitors deadline to submit cross-cultural component report: March 31, 2021

Recommendation:

Embed the activities into your daily teaching

- Plan ahead taking into account:
  - Objectives
  - Strategies, both instructional and behavioural
  - Standards Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
  - Evaluation
  - Results: Collect evidence for all the activities (take pictures, use students' products, displays, etc.)

#### Geography

Compare data: country size and extension, morphology, population, climate, cities, regions...

#### History and Heritage

Links with Texas and México history, relevant historical events and people...

#### **Gastronomy**

Typical food and meals meal schedule, food culture, eating styles...

#### School System

Structure, school life and culture, time table, norms, curriculum...

#### Language

Different accent, expressions, vocabulary, idioms, histories, tales, contests...

## Cross Cultural component activities

#### **Festivities**

Christmas,
Thanksgiving - Dia de los
Muertos,
Spring - Semana Santa,
Columbus Day -Hispanidad

#### **Displays**

Maps, flags, pictures, relevant people, vocabulary, etc.

#### Virtual cooperation with other school in Spain Emails, vídeo conferences, messages, pen pals...

#### Addressed to:

students, other colleagues, other groups in the school, the broad school community and the district...

## Famous people

Sport people, actors, singers, artists, etc

#### **Events**

Gastronomic, festivals, dance and song contests and events, fairs, etc.



Culturally Responsive Pedagogy

A method of teaching that incorporates the cultural characteristics, experiences and perspectives of racially and ethnically diverse students in order to construct more meaningful learning experiences

(Gay 2002)



- Practices to implement culturally responsive pedagogy:
  - Social practices:
    - Building strong teacher-student relationships
    - Developing a positive classroom environment
    - Focusing on students' strengths

(Worthy et al, 2012)

- Practices to implement culturally responsive pedagogy:
  - Instructional practices:
    - Teaching practices that align students' interests to the curriculum
    - Using students' prior knowledge
    - Validating students' literacies and dialects



- Practices to implement culturally responsive pedagogy:
  - Content-based practices:
    - Materials
    - Variety of perspectives
    - Diverse groups
    - Traditions, norms, customs



### Keep in Mind

- Maintain a flexible attitude and be openminded.
- Develop relationships with your students.
- Be reflective about one's own culture.