

# The China Exchange Initiative

## Suggested Next Steps

*Activities to infuse schools with a global perspective and build community support for international exchange*

### Building Interest and Improving Curricula

Consider building a Global Education Committee, overseeing international student trips and other programs, to reduce competition and increase interdepartmental cooperation.

Share your observations of China's rapid development and school reform with your school community. Explain how globalization impacts our students' futures and how you are preparing them to work in an interconnected world.

Encourage teachers to participate in professional development programs and related study tours at universities or other institutions. Be strategic in tapping your teachers.

Provide time and resources to teachers, department chairs, and curriculum coordinators to update curricula with information on contemporary China. Encourage teachers to collaborate and create cross-disciplinary courses with a global focus.

Create a global competencies certificate program to encourage global coursework, service projects, and intercultural experiences at home and abroad. (For an example, see [Needham \(MA\) High School's Global Competencies Program website](#).)

### Chinese Language Programs

Arrange after school Chinese language and culture classes or clubs for students and the community.

Work strategically with your world language department to launch a Chinese language program or look into online virtual options for class instruction.

Contact your local Confucius institute or nearby universities for language resources and support in your area.

### Exchange Opportunities

Build an exchange committee. Invite champion teachers to take the lead. Invite interested teachers, administrators, parents, and people doing business in China to join.

Draft and sign an MOU with your partner school outlining parameters and commitments for future collaboration.

Contact The China Exchange Initiative for consultation.

#### Virtual Exchange Options:

Pair students with pen pals from their partner school.

Arrange Skype sessions between classes or student groups at your schools. Discussions might focus on course material (math/science problems, debate topics, etc.), cultural activities (holidays, festivals, etc.), or language learning (idioms/cultural phrases, etc.).

Arrange for student groups to collaborate with similar groups at your Chinese partner school. Whether it's music groups, art classes, robotics, math or science teams, there are many ways to foster international collaboration at your schools both virtually and physically.

Utilize technology to create curriculum related projects with your partner school for students or professional development projects for teachers. Programs created through collaboration between teachers at the two schools and tailored to fit their curricula are often more sustainable, though there are also third party companies that provide virtual exchange services.

#### Physical Exchange Options:

Invite a group of teachers and students from your partner school to visit. Ask your committee to find host families and organize activities. Arrange for visiting students to make presentations to classes and schools to increase cross-cultural understanding and interest in your school's language and exchange offerings.

Send a group of teachers and students to visit your partner school, live with host families, and experience Chinese life and culture first hand.

Create a framework and invest in departmental support to turn these visits into a long lasting annual exchange program.

Send interested students to participate in leadership summits or other programs in China and arrange a visit to the sister school.

Send student groups/teams to participate in international competitions in China and arrange a visit to the sister school.

Public school systems can also invite Chinese students to study in their high schools on an F visa, where students pay the unsubsidized cost of tuition. Schools may be interested in using this revenue source to fund Chinese language classes or subsidize student exchange programs. (Schools must register with the U.S. Government for authorization to issue F visas.)