



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent



2008 - 2009

*Hessen-Wisconsin Sister State  
International Teacher Seminar*



### Program Description

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Hessisches Kultusministerium (HKM; Hessen State Education Department) will jointly sponsor the ninth biennial Hessen-Wisconsin International Teacher Seminar. The seminar is held in Wisconsin, USA, and in the German State of Hessen, Wisconsin's sister state.

### Applicants

Twelve educators will be selected for participation in this seminar. Applications will be accepted from teachers of German as a World Language individually or in cooperation with a teacher from another content area within the same school or school district. The twelve seminar participants from Wisconsin will be notified no later than March 28, 2008. Applicants usually come from the same school although schools in the same district can be considered. Both public and private schools may apply. The seminar is open to middle and high schools that offer German as a World Language.

### Seminar Themes

The seminar will bring together teachers with an interest in culture, language, education, politics, or history of both states.

Teachers from Hessen will visit Wisconsin a few weeks prior to the US presidential elections in the fall of 2008. They will learn about the process of US elections and traditions of democracy in this country as well as democracy education in Wisconsin schools.

Wisconsin teachers will decide on a general theme for their study tour of Hessen during the Hessen teachers' visit. Depending on their interests, a seminar with a focus on cultural, educational, or historical and political topics will be designed.

The specific topics for the seminar in Wisconsin and Hessen will be discussed with the selected participants, who will have an opportunity within the chosen theme to explore topics of interest to them and to create curriculum for their classrooms.

## Seminar Costs

DPI contributes \$500/teacher/air ticket for the Chicago-Frankfurt portion of the flight. Teachers apply to their district for the balance of the air ticket or pay the balance themselves. Each teacher will request district support in the form of substitute teachers for orientation and evaluation meetings on May 9, 2008, May 8 and October 9, 2009. Sign-off by the district administrator on the application constitutes district intention to support the teacher in the seminar. The participating teachers, their community, and the school district contribute to hosting expenses (primarily in-kind) for the visiting educators from Germany.

For the partner teachers coming from abroad, the Wisconsin districts will provide host families (room and board) for the six days the teachers are in the district. Districts pay admissions to local sites (e.g., museums), arrange local transportation, and pay for other minor hosting expenses incurred (e.g., welcome or farewell reception).

DPI pays for meals, hotels, and transportation for the guest teachers from Germany during the week they are in Madison. In reciprocation, when the Wisconsin teachers are in Hessen, expenses for local German meals, hotels, home stays, and touring will be paid by local school districts, the German host families, and by the Hessisches Kultusministerium.

Wisconsin teachers must work with their administrators to budget time for extra planning, curriculum development, and travel to DPI workshops, in addition to planning for travel abroad during the summer of 2009. During that 2009 summer, Wisconsin teachers cover their own incidental travel expenses (film, snacks, gifts) in Europe, and they pay travel from their home city to and from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, where their round trip begins. Participants may extend their stay in Europe beyond the official seminar dates at their own expense. Flexible flight arrangements can be accommodated.

## Seminar Dates

The seminar is meant to be a rich, engaging professional development experience for the Wisconsin teachers, involving their students, colleagues, schools, and entire communities. The selection of participants commits them to dates over a period of 18 months, including Spring 2008 (notification and orientation), Fall 2008 hosting of German teacher partners, Summer 2009 travel to Germany, and Fall 2009 presentations to colleagues and communities following their return to Wisconsin.

| 2007 - 2008 School Year  | 2008 - 2009 School Year  |
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| <p><b>Feb. 15, 2008</b>    <b>Application Deadline</b></p> <p><b>March 28, 2008</b>    Notification by DPI</p> <p><b>May 9, 2008</b>        Seminar orientation in Madison</p>   | <p><b>Oct. 2008</b>        Teachers from Hessen, Germany visit (one week in schools)</p> <p><b>May 8, 2009</b>     Wisconsin orientation for International Seminar in Germany</p> <p><b>June 2009</b>        Teachers from Wisconsin travel to Hessen, Germany (dates TBD, after end of school year)</p> <p><b>Fall 2009</b>         Presentations to colleagues/communities</p>   |
| <p><b>For questions about the program contact:</b></p> <p>Gerhard Fischer, Ph.D.<br/>           Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction<br/>           PO Box 7841<br/>           Madison WI 53707-7841 USA<br/>           PH: 608-267-9265; FAX: 608-266-1965<br/>           gerhard.fischer@dpi.state.wi.us</p> | <p><b>For applications and technical assistance contact:</b></p> <p>Connie Haas<br/>           Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction<br/>           PO Box 7841<br/>           Madison WI 53707-7841 USA<br/>           PH: 608-267-9267; FAX: 608-266-1965<br/>           connie.haas@dpi.state.wi.us</p> <p><b>Applications and information:</b><br/> <a href="http://www.dpi.wi.gov/cal/interntled.html">http://www.dpi.wi.gov/cal/interntled.html</a></p> |