

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON EDUCATION  
BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the Parties;

Desiring to promote better understanding between the peoples of the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico, to strengthen the relationship between the two countries through education, and to improve the educational systems of each country;

Believing that the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation and exchanges will facilitate the achievement of these aims, and

Desiring to strengthen the links already existing between the educational communities in both countries,

Have reached the following understandings:

ARTICLE I: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Parties intend to enhance and expand cooperative efforts in education according to the following general principles:

A. The Parties will encourage and develop cooperation and exchanges in the field of education on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, and reciprocity.

B. Such exchanges and cooperation shall be subject to the constitutions and applicable laws and regulations of the respective countries, and shall be subject to the availability of funds. Within this framework, the Parties will make every effort to promote favorable conditions for the fulfillment of this cooperation and these exchanges.

C. The cooperation provided for in this Memorandum is not intended to affect relations currently established between state education agencies, institutions, or school systems of the Republic of Mexico and the United States of America. Rather, the Parties shall attempt to identify new areas for joint activities, or, where deemed appropriate by all concerned, to strengthen or expand existing programs.

#### ARTICLE II: METHODS OF COOPERATION

A. In carrying out the general principles of this Memorandum the Parties intend to:

1. Encourage and facilitate closer relationships between state education agencies and offices, schools and school systems, post-secondary institutions, appropriate educational organizations, other educational entities, and private sector establishments involved in education in the two countries, and
2. Encourage mutually beneficial educational activities involving researchers, scholars, faculty members, teachers, educational administrators, and other specialists to lecture, teach, conduct research, and develop cooperative programs.

- B. The Parties intend to emphasize:
1. Cooperation that facilitates exchanges and dialogue centered on educational management, methods, evaluation and research, and
  2. In support of other bilateral initiatives and programs, the study and teaching of each other's language, culture, and history through the development of exchanges and cooperation as described above and through other mutually agreed measures.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION AND COOPERATION

- A. The executive agency for fulfilling the Memorandum for Mexico shall be the Secretariat for Public Education, in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Relations. The executive agency for fulfilling the Memorandum for the United States of America shall be the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of State and the United States Information Agency.
- B. The representatives of the Parties will meet periodically to review the implementation of cooperation and exchanges and to develop specific programs of mutual benefit. At these meetings, which may include representative of other interested organization as appropriate, they will also exchange views on the state of educational cooperation between the two countries. The preparations for such meetings, their timing and their agendas, will be established through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE IV: METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Specific activities to be undertaken under this Memorandum, which have been agreed to by both executive agencies, are included in the Annex and shall commence during the school year 1990-1991.
- B. Additional annexes may provide for new activities as mutually agreed by the executive agencies.

ARTICLE V: FINANCING

Unless otherwise agreed, each executive agency shall bear the costs of its participation.

ARTICLE VI: TERM OF MEMORANDUM

This Memorandum shall be effective September 1, 1990, and remain effective until December 31, 1991, after which it will be extended for successive two year periods unless one Party notifies the other of the termination thereof no later than June 30, 1991, or not less than six months prior to the expiration of any such two year period.

DONE at [Washington]

on [August 8]

in duplicate, in

the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**ANNEX IX TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON EDUCATION  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Activities for the Period 2012-2014**

The Secretariat of Public Education of the United Mexican States (SEP) and the United States Department of Education (ED), hereinafter “the Parties,”

Express their wish to deepen and strengthen the working relationship established through the Memorandum of Understanding on Education between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America, signed by the Parties, respectively, on August 17 and 8, 1990, hereinafter “the Memorandum.”

Pursuant to the Memorandum, including Article IV.B., the Parties plan to continue joint efforts in the field of education during the period 2012-2014 as described in this ninth Annex.

To strengthen joint activities that aim to achieve greater mutual understanding and improve education in each country, the Parties plan to continue to cooperate at the federal level and encourage joint activities at the state, local and institutional levels.

In accordance with the general principles laid out in the Memorandum, the Parties intend to continue to promote cooperation in the following areas of mutual interest:

1. **Elementary and Secondary Education** – The Parties intend to continue to promote collaboration and information sharing among federal and state education officials through activities that are intended to improve the education of children who move between Mexico and the United States. The Parties also intend to continue working together to facilitate the transfer and enrollment in school of these students in order to help ensure the continuity of their education. Finally, the Parties intend to continue to share information to help improve educational opportunities for these students, including U.S. born students of Mexican descent who return to Mexico and have

limited proficiency in the Spanish language and have had limited exposure to Mexican culture and history.

For children of seasonal and temporary agricultural workers or youth who are themselves such workers in particular, the United States plans to encourage the activities described in the paragraph above through mechanisms that include the Binational Migrant Education Initiative and school district use of the U.S.-Mexico Binational Migrant Student Transfer Document, which facilitates the expeditious transfer of kindergarten through twelfth-grade student records between schools in Mexico and schools in the United States.

2. **Higher Education** – The Parties intend to continue promoting the academic mobility of students, teachers and university professors, as well as institutional collaboration. The Parties also intend to promote increased participation in academic exchanges within the context of the “100,000 Strong in the Americas” initiative, led by the United States Department of State, which seeks to significantly expand international study and understanding in the Western Hemisphere. The Parties also acknowledge the value of partnerships with and among high schools and institutions of higher education in both countries, as well as public-private partnerships that can co-finance exchanges. The Parties also support the exchange of experiences in the area of open education resources and distance education at the postsecondary level. Finally, the Parties recognize the value of the U.S.-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS), the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program and other exchanges in promoting the improvement of English language teaching in Mexico and Spanish language teaching in the United States.
3. **Other Areas of Cooperation** – During the term of this Annex, the Parties may decide to carry out other activities or exchange information in other areas of mutual interest, including, but not limited to, areas such as adult education; educational technology; indigenous education; safe schools; second language learning; special education; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education; and teacher development and exchange.

4. **Verification of Academic Documents** – The Parties recognize the potential benefits of the verification of public academic documents by informal means that ensure confidence regarding the origin of such public documents. Examples of such informal means of verification might include online validation, the exchange of information between educational authorities or institutions, and other mechanisms that can help confirm the validity of academic documents. This recognition of the potential benefits of informal means of verification does not, and is not intended to, supersede the laws, regulations or policies of subnational governments or individual institutions.

The objective of the aforementioned is to simplify procedures for the recognition of partial or complete programs of study, the awarding of academic credits, and other processes related to the mobility of students, academics and researchers.

Signed in duplicate, in the Spanish and English languages.

**FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC  
EDUCATION OF THE UNITED  
MEXICAN STATES:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**José Ángel Córdova Villalobos**  
**Secretary**  
México D.F.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Place**

20 de noviembre de 2012

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**FOR THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Arne Duncan**  
**Secretary**  
Washington, DC

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Place**

November 8, 2012

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**Date**