

**SELECTED ACTIVITIES  
OF THE  
OFFICE OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS**



**2016**



# Office of Overseas Schools Contacts

A/OPR/OS Room H328, SA-1  
Department of State  
Washington, DC 20522-0328  
Telephone: (202) 261-8200  
Fax: (202) 261-8224/202-663-1362  
E-mail: [OverseasSchools@state.gov](mailto:OverseasSchools@state.gov)  
Internet: [www.state.gov/m/a/os](http://www.state.gov/m/a/os)  
Intranet: <http://aopros.a.state.gov/>

Families of U.S. Government employees and employees of overseas businesses are encouraged to contact A/OPR/OS for information on educational opportunities overseas for their school-age dependent children.

<b>Director</b>	<b>Dr. Keith D. Miller</b>	(202) 261-8200
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:MillerKD2@state.gov">MillerKD2@state.gov</a>	
<b>Africa</b>	<b>Ms. Mary E. Russman</b>	(202) 261-8218
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:RussmanME@state.gov">RussmanME@state.gov</a>	
<b>American Republics</b>	<b>Dr. William H. Scotti</b>	(202) 261-8221
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ScottiWH2@state.gov">ScottiWH2@state.gov</a>	
<b>East Asia Pacific</b>	<b>Dr. Lawrence A. Hobdell</b>	(202) 261-8226
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:HobdellLA@state.gov">HobdellLA@state.gov</a>	
<b>Eastern Europe</b>	<b>Mr. Thomas P. Shearer</b>	(202) 261-8210
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ShearerTP@state.gov">ShearerTP@state.gov</a>	
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>Ms. Christine L. Brown</b>	(202) 261-8217
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:BrownCL2@state.gov">BrownCL2@state.gov</a>	
<b>Near East, South Asia, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey</b>	<b>Dr. Beatrice H. Cameron</b>	(202) 261-8211
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:CameronBH2@state.gov">CameronBH2@state.gov</a>	



International School Suva  
Suva, Fiji

# Table of Contents



Introduction .....	1
Accreditation of Overseas Schools .....	3
Regional Education Associations .....	3
Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE) .....	4
New Schools .....	4
Security Measures in Overseas Schools .....	5
National Distinguished Principals Program .....	6
Directors New to Schools Assisted by the Department .....	6
Regional Education Association Executive Directors Meeting .....	6
Overseas School Board Members Training .....	7
College Counselor Workshop and Annual College Board Summer Institute for International Admissions .....	7
Jefferson Overseas School Technology Institute (JOSTI) .....	8
Advanced Placement .....	9
World Virtual School Project .....	9
Standards of Learning .....	10
Educational Facilities .....	11
Overseas Schools Project – College Counseling of Overseas High School Students .....	11
Comparison of 2015 Mean SAT and Subject Test Scores .....	12
Advisory Committee on Exceptional Children and Youth .....	12
The President’s Education Award and American Citizenship Award Programs .....	13
The MATHCOUNTS Program .....	13
Parent Support Programs .....	14
Overseas Schools Advisory Council Overview .....	16

## Introduction

The Office of Overseas Schools (OS) coordinates and administers the Department of State's Overseas Schools Assistance Program. The 193 overseas schools that OS is assisting during the 2015-2016 school year are private, independent and non-profit institutions. Of the approximately 137,000 students enrolled in these schools, 27 percent are U.S. citizens, 29 percent are host-country nationals, and 44 percent are third-country nationals.

Nearly half of the professional staff and the majority of the directors of these schools are U.S. citizens. The primary language of instruction is English, and most of the schools are accredited through U.S. educational accrediting associations. The schools provide a diverse international environment that affords students an unparalleled opportunity to learn firsthand about other countries, peoples, and cultures. In addition, these schools offer the United States the opportunity to showcase the best in American educational practices; demonstrate a dedication to the democratic values of fairness, equity and justice; and promote mutual understanding. OS' role in supporting these schools and their educational programs underscores the Department's vital concern with the quality of the schools' educational programs.

The first goal of the OS program is to promote quality educational opportunities in international schools for dependents of American citizens carrying out programs and interests of the U.S. Government abroad. To achieve this goal, OS pursues the following objectives:

- Promote the development of a highly trained, qualified teaching staff in each overseas school.
- Promote competent management that establishes, supports, and maintains the stated mission of the school.
- Encourage continuous evaluation of education programs.
- Promote, support and maintain current U.S. educational practices and procedures.
- Promote development of financial resources to assure quality educational opportunities for school-age dependents of U.S. Government employees overseas.
- Assess the quality of educational opportunities for dependents at U.S. missions overseas where there are no Department-assisted overseas schools, seek to provide supplementary programs, and otherwise assist parents in

providing adequate educational opportunities for their children where such opportunities are deficient.

The second goal is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries by demonstrating American educational ideas, principles, and methods. OS has established the following objectives to achieve this goal:

- Promote understanding of U.S. educational philosophy and practice among host- and third-country teachers.
- Encourage U.S. school systems to exchange faculty and educational programs with overseas schools.
- Demonstrate American educational methods and teaching practices to the host-country community.

The Office of Overseas Schools has a professional staff which includes a director and regional education officers (REOs). REO responsibilities require a broad range of training, experience and contacts in the field of education in the United States and abroad. They work closely with Department-assisted overseas schools and maintain close liaison with U.S. colleges and universities, school systems, professional organizations, and relevant government offices. They also work closely with U.S. Government employees assigned overseas and their families, and Department of State organizations including the regional bureaus, the Office of Allowances, the Family Liaison Office, and the Child and Family Program. The activities of the Office of Overseas Schools are discussed in the following pages.



Carlucci American International School of Lisbon  
Lisbon, Portugal

## Accreditation of Overseas Schools

The Office of Overseas Schools has long encouraged schools to seek accreditation because this process requires that schools conduct continuous self-study and evaluation of their organization, program and facilities. Four of the six U.S. regional accrediting associations work with the Office of Overseas Schools to facilitate such accreditation. These are AdvancEd, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. These associations have developed a special self-study method for use by all Department-assisted overseas schools and other international schools seeking accreditation.

## Regional Education Associations

One of the difficulties facing Department-assisted overseas schools is their relative isolation from current educational developments in the United States. To help overcome obstacles caused by this distance, the Office of Overseas Schools has long supported, through technical and grant assistance, the development of regional associations. These associations provide Department-assisted overseas schools with a variety of educational services, including in-service training for staff, purchasing, recruitment services and program development. The Office of Overseas Schools has established and assists the following eight regional education associations:

- Association of American Schools in South America (AASSA) [www.aassa.com](http://www.aassa.com)
- Association of American Schools in Central America, Colombia-Caribbean, and Mexico (Tri-Association) [www.tri-association.org](http://www.tri-association.org)
- Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA) [www.aisa.or.ke](http://www.aisa.or.ke)
- Central and Eastern European Schools Association (CEESA) [www.ceesa.org](http://www.ceesa.org)
- East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools (EARCOS) [www.earcos.org](http://www.earcos.org)
- European Council of International Schools (ECIS) [www.ecis.org](http://www.ecis.org)

- Mediterranean Association of International Schools (MAIS)  
[www.mais-web.org](http://www.mais-web.org)
- Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools (NESAC)  
[www.nesacenter.org](http://www.nesacenter.org)

### **Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE)**

**T**he Association for the Advancement of International Education is the primary professional organization in the United States for American international schools. Membership is comprised of school heads, administrators, counselors, teachers, professors, and professionals who provide services for international schools. Its mission is to provide forums for discussion and resolution of common issues, to promote advancements in school leadership, educational research and best practices, to develop partnerships with institutions and associations worldwide, and to foster networks of personal and professional relationships.

AAIE holds a major conference each year in the United States that is attended by several hundred delegates, including overseas schools directors, stateside superintendents, regional education association executive directors, and officers of U.S. accreditation agencies. In addition, this annual international education meeting attracts university personnel, College Board representatives, book publishers, and many other individuals interested in Department-assisted overseas schools. The meeting affords the Office of Overseas Schools staff opportunities to meet with many of the school directors from the various regions, to set up school-to-school partnerships, and to develop and nurture various initiatives. Examples of these opportunities include sessions that bring together the Office of Overseas Schools staff and regional association executive directors with members of the College Board project and the Advisory Committee on Exceptional Children and Youth. The 2016 conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Additional information can be found at AAIE's website [www.aaie.org](http://www.aaie.org).

### **New Schools**

**T**he Office of Overseas Schools continues to help establish schools and provides technical and grant assistance to meet the educational needs of school-age dependents of U.S. Government personnel and other Americans assigned to newly

established U.S. missions as well as to posts with a growing American presence. Posts where schools have been recently started are: Nassau, Bahamas; Podgorica, Montenegro; and Kigali, Rwanda.



QSI International School of Montenegro  
Podgorica, Montenegro



QSI International School of Astana  
Astana, Kazakhstan

## Security Measures in Overseas Schools

The safety of American children who attend overseas schools is of vital concern to the Department of State. The Department has provided physical security enhancement grants totaling over \$100 million to more than 500 schools worldwide in which USG dependents and other American citizen children are enrolled. Of this amount, \$67 million was awarded by the Office of Overseas Schools (OS) to Department-assisted overseas schools, and \$39 million was awarded by the Office of Acquisitions Management to non-Department-assisted overseas schools. Security enhancements include shatter resistant window film, public address systems, emergency radio communication, perimeter walls and fences, bollards, gates, guard houses, closed circuit TV systems, perimeter lighting, and similar upgrades. It is anticipated that Congress will continue to fund this program for the foreseeable future.

The *Emergency Procedures Handbook* was first published by the Central and Eastern European Association (CEESA) in 1998 through a grant from the Overseas Schools Advisory Council. Its most recent redesign was completed in 2013.

OS, in consultation with Overseas Buildings Operations and Diplomatic Security, published *Security Guide for International Schools*, and an accompanying CD to assist international schools in building and implementing a security program. The booklet presents an overview of issues dealing with security while the accompanying CD contains a program, *School Security*, which helps schools improve their security and contains reference material and videos with detailed information for the development and enhancement of a school's security program. The Guide is part of the Department's continuing commitment to the safety and security of international schools.

## **National Distinguished Principals Program**



The National Distinguished Principals program, established in 1984, honors outstanding elementary and middle-level administrators who ensure that America's children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. Each year, NAESP congratulates principals from across the nation in both public and private schools and schools from the United States Department of Defense Education Activity and the United States Department of State Office of Overseas Schools for their exemplary achievements. A nomination package is sent to all Department-assisted overseas school directors in January.

The 2016 award winners from the Department of State-assisted schools are Joseph A. Stanzione, Elementary Principal at the American School Foundation of Monterrey, and Suzan E. Weishof, Junior School Principal at the International School of Hamburg.

All the honorees will receive their awards on October 7, 2016, during a formal banquet and award ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Administration will host a reception for all the honorees.

## **Directors New to Schools Assisted by the Department**

**O**S holds a two-day orientation for new directors of Department-assisted overseas schools every July. Directors receive an overview of OS, meet Department officers responsible for post management and administration, and attend presentations by the Offices of Allowances, Child and Family Program, and the Family Liaison Office.

## **Regional Education Association Executive Directors Meeting**

**O**S hosts an annual meeting of the Executive Directors of the overseas regional education associations at the Department of State in December. The program offers insight and information on the Department of State and on programs and services in the United States that may be provided to students, faculty and administrators in overseas schools. In addition it allows the Executive Directors to collaborate on the conferences and professional development opportunities they organize throughout the school year in their regions. The program also assists the Department in its effort to increase and maintain American education and values overseas.

## Overseas School Board Members Training

OS recognizes that success in educational programs often depends on the quality of a school board's performance in providing policy guidance and oversight for school programs. The need to train school board members is particularly vital overseas because of the inordinately high turnover of board members in many locations. Each year, OS arranges for consultants to provide training to individual overseas school boards and to speak at regional conferences of overseas schools. OS also helped fund the publication of *The International Trustee Handbook*, written specifically for the needs of international school boards of trustees around the world.

The Overseas Schools Advisory Council has helped train board members of Department-assisted overseas schools through grants to the regional associations of overseas schools for the following projects:

- *Training for School Board Members* provides information on the critical differences and commonalities between school boards in the United States and overseas, thus enabling school heads to work effectively with and provide training to new board members. It is now published on DVD and available upon request from OS.
- *School Board Development, Building a Board that Works* offers training material on conflict resolution, goal setting, team building, policy making and understanding the role of an individual board member versus that of a Board as a whole. It can be accessed at:  
[www.state.gov/m/a/os/c14019.htm](http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/c14019.htm).
- *The Selection of Overseas School Superintendents* provides guidelines to school boards in selecting overseas school superintendents. It is now on DVD and available upon request from OS.

## College Counselor Workshop and Annual College Board Summer Institute for International Admissions

Each June, the College Board, with support from the Office of Overseas Schools, sponsors the Summer Institute for International Admissions to help high school college counselors working at American/international schools overseas strengthen their college counseling program. Counselors have

opportunities to meet college admissions professionals at special panel sessions and during a college fair. A two-day workshop for participants new to college counseling in American/international schools precedes the Institute. The objective of the workshop is to introduce new counselors to techniques and information on counseling that can be used immediately, including suggestions on how to work with faculty and families.



Topics at the Institute include: best practices in international school counseling, higher education perspectives on applications, holistic admission review process, budgeting fundamentals, components of a college application, and transcripts and testing in admission. Participants also have direct contact with admissions officers who participate in panel sessions and with members of the Overseas Project Committee who conduct some of the sessions.

### **Jefferson Overseas School Technology Institute (JOSTI)**

**J**OISTI is a one-week technology training experience for selected overseas educators from both Department-assisted and non-assisted overseas schools. The Institute offers training designed to help integrate technology in the classroom, curriculum, and administration. The JOSTI 2016 conference will mark the twenty-third anniversary of the Institute and offers a strand in instructional integration for teachers (K-12) and one for technical staff, both with an emphasis on virtual learning, highlighting collaborative communities and shared resources. The Institute is limited to 80 participants. One participant per school is given first priority in registering; others are enrolled on a space-available basis.



The Office of Overseas Schools established the Institute in 1993 with a grant from the Overseas Schools Advisory Council in cooperation with the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Over the last twenty three years, more than 2,000 participants from Department-assisted and non-assisted overseas schools have received training in state-of-the-art educational information technology during this one-week event.

## Advanced Placement

The College Board and the Office of Overseas Schools continued to work together to expand professional development opportunities for AP teachers, pre-AP teachers and AP Coordinators in Department-assisted overseas schools. The goal is to enhance communication between these schools and the College Board, and to promote acceptance of AP courses and exams in the admission process of universities outside the United States. Professional development of AP teachers offers students outside the U.S. greater access to a rigorous academic education, enriches the school curriculum, and enables teachers to further their professional development. To this end, the Office of Overseas Schools continues to provide grants to facilitate teacher participation in AP and pre-AP workshops.

Another major area of the collaborative AP initiative between the College Board and A/OS is an effort to expand recognition of AP among colleges and universities outside of the U.S. in order to benefit students at international schools who have completed AP courses and exams. The total number of universities outside of the U.S. that recognize AP for admission and university credit now exceeds 600 in more than 60 countries.

## World Virtual School Project



The World Virtual School Project (WVS) began in 2002 in association with the Office of Overseas Schools and the staff and students of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Fairfax County, Virginia. Initially it was utilized to support the March 2002 evacuation of the International School of Islamabad. The program is currently in 23 schools in the Near East South Asia region and a total of 74 around the world.

WVS assists participating schools and regions in terms of curriculum quality and continuity, opportunities for collaboration, progressive professional development, and resiliency in the face of natural or man-made emergencies. This unique project is premised on the assumptions that:

- Schools value the integration of relevant and effective on-line resources for their varied learning communities.

- Schools value working regionally to collaborate and share perspectives and methodologies and to consider and nurture best practices.
- Schools value their integrity in the face of adversity and seek cost-effective and reliable means of assuring continuity of operations.

WVS now provides coordination of a network of learning management systems for participating international schools to use affordable and reliable on-line academic resources for day-to-day instruction, for continuity of operations during times of emergency and for fostering and supporting collaboration directly among participating schools, among regional associations, and at the multi-regional (global) level. For more information on this project please go to [www.wvsgeo.org](http://www.wvsgeo.org).

## Standards of Learning



*Project AERO, American Education Reaches Out,* began as a collaborative project of the Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools (NESAS), supported by a grant from the Overseas Advisory Council (OSAC), and the Office of Overseas Schools. The project developed standards in the subjects of: Art, English, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. These standards serve as a curriculum foundation that schools use to develop K-12 curricula, and to train teachers to use the standards as the basis for assessing student learning progress and their own instruction. Since its inception fifteen years ago, the AERO project has provided professional development for more than 1,500 teachers, curriculum coordinators, and administrators at the annual Summer Institute, regional workshops and conferences, and on-site training at schools.

AERO has been aligned with the Common Core Standards in mathematics and English/language arts. The Core standards have been adopted by 46 states in the United States. They provide a rigorous framework for K-12 programs and assessment. AERO subject experts have reviewed and revised the original standards in mathematics and English/language arts to make them compatible with the Core standards, resulting in AERO being termed, “Common Core Plus”. Additional information can be found at [www.projectaero.org](http://www.projectaero.org).

## Educational Facilities



Colegio Maya, Guatemala City, Guatemala

**T**he Office of Overseas Schools provides consultants to Department-assisted overseas schools who need assistance with educational facilities planning, design, construction, physical plant maintenance, and operations. The consultants have extensive school facilities experience and have assisted Department-assisted overseas schools in all regions of the world.

***Project Hamlet: To Build or Not to Build***, a handbook that assists overseas schools in making decisions on planning, designing, and implementing new construction or renovation projects, continues to be requested by schools considering facilities changes. Published by the Near East South Asia Council of Schools, with support from the Office of Overseas Schools and a grant from the Overseas Schools Advisory Council, the project was developed by an Office of Overseas Schools staff consultant who was the principal writer.

### **Overseas Schools Project – College Counseling of Overseas High School Students**

**T**he Office of Overseas Schools, in conjunction with the College Board, works to facilitate access to American higher education for students in Department-assisted overseas schools. The Overseas School Project has effectively connected overseas guidance professionals and students with current U.S. college admissions officials and financial aid information. Through the Project's activities, secondary schools in every world region have benefited from the project's on-site school visits, workshops, and participation in the regional school association conferences. Admissions consultants who travel for the Overseas Schools Project are experts in the field of college admissions and represent private and public colleges reflecting the breadth of U.S. higher education.

## Comparison of 2015 Mean SAT and Subject Test Scores

### SAT Reasoning Test

Test	U.S. Citizens in OS Schools	All Students in OS Schools	National Average	Fairfax County Public Schools	Montgomery County Public Schools	Arlington County Public Schools
<b>Critical Reading</b>	581(580)	549(549)	495(497)	556(556)	542(547)	563(557)
<b>Math</b>	597(596)	589(589)	511(513)	571(570)	554(560)	570(557)
<b>Writing</b>	575(578)	551(554)	484(487)	542(542)	533(542)	546(539)
<i>Scores in parentheses are for 2014</i>						
<b>Total 2015</b>	1753	1689	1490	1669	1629	1679
<b>Total 2014</b>	1754	1692	1497	1668	1649	1653

Number of Students taking test 2015 at A/OS Assisted schools: 7,314

Number of Students taking test 2014 at A/OS Assisted schools: 7,413

### SAT II Subject Test Scores

	U.S. History	Math I	Biology M	Chemistry	Physics	French	Spanish	Chinese
<i>Scores in parentheses are for 2014</i>								
National Mean	645 (643)	619 (621)	652 (653)	666 (668)	667 (665)	636 (635)	651 (664)	759 (758)
OS Mean	633 (632)	614 (621)	658 (657)	671 (668)	673 (669)	674 (679)	727 (716)	760 (765)

## Advisory Committee on Exceptional Children and Youth

The Advisory Committee on Exceptional Children and Youth, chaired by Dr. Susan Grant, a neurolinguist in private practice, advises Department of State staff, Department-assisted overseas schools, and the families and educators of those schools about the identification and nurture of children with special needs, both those with learning challenges and those of high ability. The chief function of the advisory committee is to assist schools and families in developing appropriate responses to students with special needs.

The committee also continues to advise the Department on allowances for special needs services. The committee has a particular role in determining eligibility for the Department's gifted education allowance. Arrangements to take the School and College Ability Test (SCAT) are made through the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at Johns Hopkins University. Tests are administered at post, scored by CTY, and then sent to Dr. Karen Rogers, University of St. Thomas, for interpretation and recommendation. Committee members and associates continue to assist the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE) in designing and delivering professional development opportunities for international school directors, teachers and counselors.

## **The President’s Education Award and American Citizenship Award Programs**

**I**n collaboration with the Department of Education, the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, OS offers the President’s Education Awards Program to encourage all students in Department-assisted overseas schools to reach their highest academic potential through awards for either outstanding achievement or improvement.

Department-assisted overseas schools also participate in the American Citizenship Award Program honoring students, regardless of nationality, who have shown by their speech and actions that they possess the qualities and characteristics of a good citizen.

During the 2015-16 school year about 90 schools participated in these programs awarding more than 5,000 awards for academic excellence, approximately 3,000 awards for academic achievement and 630 citizenship awards.

## **The MATHCOUNTS Program**

**D**epartment-assisted overseas schools participate in the annual MATHCOUNTS Program. Each year more than 450,000 students participate in the national math enrichment, coaching and competition program for students in grades 6 through 8. The MATHCOUNTS Competition Program is designed to excite and challenge middle school students and provides the following benefits:

- Build math skills, promote logical thinking and sharpen analytical abilities through challenging and exciting activities.
- Foster teamwork and a competitive spirit among students.
- Enhance self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment through setting and achieving goals.
- Involve students and teachers in year-long coaching sessions that help students improve their problem-solving skills.

MATHCOUNTS provides the preparation and competition materials to Department-assisted overseas schools who register for the program. Individual schools conduct several months of coaching before competing in their Chapter Competition held during February. Results from the State Competition, held in March, are used to determine the

four highest-ranked Mathletes and the coach who will comprise the Department of State team. The team receives an expense-paid trip to the MATHCOUNTS National Competition.

In 2016, Raytheon hosted the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual competition in Washington, DC from May 7-10. The State Department team, coached by Kim Williams of the International School of Beijing, Beijing, China, included Mathletes Joseph Lin and William Lin from Taipei American School, Taipei, Taiwan, Ben Lee from the International School of Beijing, Beijing, China, and Daniel Sheremeta from Hong Kong International School, Hong Kong, China.



## Parent Support Programs

The Office of Overseas Schools publishes annually the *Directory of Overseas American-Sponsored Elementary and Secondary Schools Assisted by the U.S. Department of State* listing all assisted schools and their contact information. It can be found on the Intranet at <http://aopros.a.state.gov>. A hard copy is available upon request from OS.

A one-page fact sheet on all Department-assisted overseas schools can be accessed under the heading Assisted Schools on the Department's Internet website at [www.state.gov/m/a/os/c1684.htm](http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/c1684.htm), as well as on the Intranet at <http://aopros.a.state.gov>. The fact sheets are updated annually in the fall by the schools themselves.

The Office of Overseas Schools elicits detailed information from all U.S. overseas posts regarding all international schools that U.S. Government dependents attend throughout the world through the annual Summary School Information Project. The information, updated annually, is available on the CD-ROM *InfoSchools* and in hard copy upon request. It can also be accessed on the Intranet at <http://aopros.a.state.gov/pdf/pdf/alpha.html>. A list of these schools

and their websites can be found on the Internet under the heading SCHOOLS AT POST at <http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/c1684.htm>

The CD-ROM *InfoSchools* contains information on education options at posts overseas, including information on over 500 schools and pre-schools. OS mails the CD to each embassy and consulate to enable U.S. Government employees to review the material as they participate in the Department's bidding process for onward assignment. OS also makes copies available to all Foreign Affairs agencies and departments that assign U.S. Government employees overseas. In addition, OS makes copies available upon request to overseas schools, private entities, and individual U.S. Government employees considering an overseas assignment.

OS receives information annually from posts about schools overseas offering programs for children with special needs and publishes the document *Overseas Schools Offering Support to Children with Special Needs* which can be found on the Internet at the following link <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/176076.pdf> and at the following link located on the Intranet [http://aopros.a.state.gov/news\\_story.asp?news\\_id=88](http://aopros.a.state.gov/news_story.asp?news_id=88).

OS published *Transitioning to an Overseas Assignment with a Special Needs Child*, with the support of the Advisory Committee on Exceptional Children and Youth. It includes a section on resources for special needs and gifted students and additional information on the Department of State's assignment process, the allowance structure, and the key factors that should be used when parents select an overseas school. The document can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/27909.htm> as well on the Intranet at [http://aopros.a.state.gov/content.asp?content\\_id=132&menu\\_id=93](http://aopros.a.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=132&menu_id=93).

The Office of Overseas Schools maintains a small library which houses post-specific materials regarding K-12 education options overseas. These can include curriculum guides, yearbooks, newsletters and profiles on overseas schools. Visitors are welcome to use the library on a walk-in basis. A resource person is available to provide assistance.

## Overseas Schools Advisory Council Overview

The Department of State established the Overseas Schools Advisory Council (OSAC) in 1967 to seek the advice of American leaders from the business, foundation, and educational communities in pursuing the goal of assuring quality education for American children attending American overseas schools. OSAC is one of the longest standing advisory committees in the Federal Government and is subject to review and renewal every two years under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

OSAC is comprised of senior executives from U.S. corporations and encourages U.S. corporate and foundation participation to support its principal objectives. These include: 1) providing advice on policy and sources of financial and personnel support for American overseas schools; 2) helping these schools become centers of excellence in education; and 3) helping make service abroad more attractive to American citizens with school-age children, both in the business community and in the U.S. Government. OSAC encourages U.S. firms, foundations, and individuals to provide both financial and in-kind assistance directly to American-sponsored overseas schools. In addition, the Council has provided materials to assist these schools in their own fund raising activities.

With generous corporate and foundation support and with administrative assistance provided by the National Association of Elementary School Principals Foundation, OSAC has undertaken an ambitious program for improving educational opportunities abroad. The Council's Educational Assistance Program, begun in 1983 and now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, provides grant awards for educational projects that ultimately reach approximately 137,000 students in 134 countries. To date the program has funded 131 projects totaling over \$4.0 million and has provided an array of videotapes, handbooks, study guides, student and teacher manuals, transparencies, computer software, lesson plans, and instructional packages.

The Council awards its grants to the regional education associations the American-sponsored overseas schools belong to rather than individual institutions in order to provide the widest possible benefit. The Council rates proposed projects on the basis of their potential benefit to overseas schools, the number of students and teachers that will benefit, and the facility with which the project can be replicated in other overseas schools in all parts of the world.

During the first 12 years of the program, OSAC projects concentrated on faculty and staff training, enhancing the skills of school board members, developing and updating educational curriculum, developing programs for handicapped and gifted and talented students, and helping students develop leadership skills. Although OSAC has continued to fund projects in these categories, the Council is placing increasing emphasis on projects that support and increase the use of technology, and is requiring that all project proposals include a technology component. This policy is intended to assist American-sponsored overseas schools incorporate educational technologies (computers, CD-ROM, multimedia and telecommunications) into the educational process to prepare their students for the information age. In 2012, OSAC began a project to raise funds from the global corporate community to make the World Virtual School available to all of the American-sponsored overseas Schools. This online capability, which is an outgrowth of previous OSAC projects, will permit students to continue their education in the event of emergencies that result in school closures.

OSAC meets semi-annually at the Department of State (January and June) to confer with top Department officials, select proposals for the Educational Assistance Program, review the progress of previously selected proposals, and exchange views with noted U.S. educators. Between meetings, OSAC members volunteer their time and effort to inform the American corporate community about OSAC's program to improve educational opportunities overseas for U.S.-citizen children and to enlist such firms in becoming members of the Council.