



Education without Borders:

Promoting International Education and Exchange in Vermont Public Schools through a Dual-Diploma Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SPIRAL proposes to work with Vermont schools, in the form of a consortium, to promote international education and exchange through the development of dual high school diploma programs with schools from foreign countries, particularly schools in China. A written three-party agreement between SPIRAL and the participating schools in the other two countries will articulate a specially-designed curriculum that meets Vermont and U.S. academic standards and a program budget. The curriculum will address Vermont and U.S. school graduation requirements by:

- a. Enrolling the Chinese tuition-paying students in classes at participating Vermont schools for one semester during the 9th grade year and one semester during the 12th grade year. The goal of the first semester is to improve academic English and increase familiarity with American culture, and the goal of the second semester is to develop academic skills. The Chinese students are expected to earn up to six high school credits for these two semesters.
- b. Encouraging Vermont school teachers to teach foundation courses in China for one or more semesters. These courses could include among others: American History, American Government, and English Language Arts.
- c. Ensuring that the foundation courses taught by the Chinese schools meet Vermont school graduation requirements by requesting Vermont education experts from the consortium to participate in program development and to visit the Chinese schools before and during the program.

Upon successful completion of the program, the Chinese students will earn an American High School Diploma from the state of Vermont, and the participating American students will receive agreed-upon academic credits that will be counted toward their graduation requirements.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

International education and exchange is becoming increasingly crucial for schools, both American and foreign, as they seek to prepare competent global citizens for the 21st century. American education has been viewed as the foundation of the country's democracy and citizenship, and as the educational ideal for western civilization by many countries, especially China. There is a growing need to create affordable international education and exchange opportunities for both American and Chinese youth. This proposed dual high school diploma program represents a way for Chinese students to receive an American education with limited time spent studying abroad while simultaneously offering American students the opportunity to learn about a new culture without traveling overseas. Additionally, this program creates an opportunity for American school teachers to teach in a foreign classroom and gain first-hand understanding of different social and cultural environments. The new perspective will be valuable for enhancing international education in our schools.

PROPOSED PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

1. Consortium Building:
SPIRAL, with the support of the Vermont Superintendents' Association and the Vermont Principals' Association, will initiate and facilitate the formation of the Consortium by encouraging Vermont schools to make a commitment to the program and to become members of the consortium.
2. Curriculum Development:
Working with Stowe High School, the leading school of the program, SPIRAL will assist member schools to develop a mission, vision statement, and curriculum for the program which meets Vermont graduation requirements.
3. Steering Committee:
A team of administrators from the member schools will be the governing body of the Consortium which will develop policies and procedures, and oversee the operation and evaluation of the program. SPIRAL, the program's executive agency, will provide general program management, coordination, and administrative support, including facilitating steering committee meetings, working with school coordinators, and organizing program visits to China, as well as supporting Vermont educators teaching in China and Chinese teachers' professional development in Vermont.
4. Program Delivery:
 - The first semester: Chinese 9th grade tuition-paying students will come to the Consortium member schools. They will enroll in 6 classes with the expectation of earning 3 credits, register on "Anagnorisis" (a Personal Learning Plan System), and work with assigned American advisors to develop a personal learning plan.

- The following semesters: the Chinese students will take classes at their home schools in China and work with Chinese advisors to implement their individual Personal Learning Plans. The American school program coordinators of each participating school will oversee the students' personal and academic growth by 1) supervising Chinese advisors' development of individual learning plans in the beginning of each semester, 2) communicating with the Chinese advisors on a monthly basis about students' learning progress via skype meetings and/or email, 3) supervising the Chinese advisors' evaluation of students' learning progress at the end of each semester, and 4) writing a program report that describes each student's progress and areas needing support for SPIRAL's program director at the end of each semester.
 - Summer programs:
 - Summers 1 & 2 (the summer between 9th and 10th grade and the summer between 10th and 11th grade): working with Chinese advisors, the Chinese students will take Project Anagnorisis (0.5 credits) and engage in organized non-classroom activities, such as community service and/or five expectation areas (Problem solving, Communication, Decision-Making, Service & Citizenship, Initiative).
 - Summer 3 (the summer between 11th and 12th grade): the Chinese students will study for and take the TOFEL and SAT tests, update their portfolios, and prepare their college applications.
 - During the summers, the American students of the consortium member schools will be offered the opportunity to join the Chinese students for the organized non-classroom activities in China.
 - The last semester (the second semester of the senior year): Chinese 12th grade tuition-paying students will come to the Consortium member schools. They will enroll in 6 classes with the expectation of earning 3 credits, complete the graduation requirements of the Consortium member school, conduct and pass a "Senior Defense", graduate, and receive a high school diploma from the Consortium member school.
5. Student Selection and Evaluation Process:
- SPIRAL will work together with consortium member schools to conduct the screening and the selection process.
 - School program coordinators will perform evaluations of the students' learning progress and submit the evaluations to SPIRAL's program director.
4. Graduation and Diploma Granting:
 Upon successful completion of the American school's graduation requirements, the participating Chinese students will receive a Vermont high school diploma.

SPIRAL'S ROLE IN PROGRAM COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

SPIRAL will function as an executive agency for Consortium formation, as well as the Dual-Diploma Program development, implementation, coordination and management. In particular, SPIRAL will facilitate and provide administrative support in the processes of:

- Building up a network of Vermont schools which accept tuition-paying international students.
- Promoting international education and exchange at Vermont schools in a systematic and organized way.
- Facilitating discussions of the Dual-Diploma Program leading to articulation agreements between SPIRAL and Vermont schools.
- Establishing an advisory committee to oversee the program's development, implementation and assessment.
- Working with member schools to provide international student home stay placement and supervision, as well as any necessary ESL tutoring services.
- Managing the program operation through monthly meetings, regular communication with school program coordinators, and periodic on-site visits.
- Providing training and administrative support to school program coordinators for Personal Learning Plans, Project Anagnorisis, and program operational details.
- Organizing international on-site program visits for the representatives of the member schools as well as international exchange activities for students, teachers and administrators of member schools.
- Helping member schools to collect tuition from the Chinese students for their two semesters' study in the U.S. and providing financial management for program operation, such as an annual program budget, bookkeeping, and financial reporting.
- Charging the dual-diploma Chinese students a program fee for their studies at the consortium member schools.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS' COMMITMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to have a successful program, SPIRAL needs to work closely with participating schools. Organized program coordination and management with strong commitment and shared responsibilities is essential. Several considerations are sought from participating Vermont schools:

- Sign an agreement with SPIRAL as a member of the Consortium for the International Dual-Diploma Program.
- Appoint a school program coordinator to work with the SPIRAL program director to coordinate the program and work as an advisor for the Chinese students for the four years during which they are enrolled in the program.
- Create an advisory system modeling Project Anagnorisis or similar format for the Chinese students enrolled in the Dual-Diploma Program.
- Create a general curriculum for two semesters (the 9th grade first semester and the 12th grade second semester) that meets the Chinese students' needs and the American school's graduation requirements.

- Work with SPIRAL and the Chinese home school on student academic record-keeping, transcript processing, and college application-related tasks.
- Promote and encourage the American teachers to teach in China for one or more semesters.
- Promote and encourage American students to go to China in the summer and participate in Project Anagnorisis activities with the Chinese students. (The Program of Project Anagnorisis in China is to be developed)
- Participate in on-site program visits (at the program's expense) and on an as-needed basis.
- Reach an articulation agreement with SPIRAL and the Consortium for the International Dual-diploma Program to place up to ten (10) international tuition-paying students for two non-consecutive semesters, and grant high school diplomas to the international students who have successfully fulfilled graduation requirements.
- Receive tuition and fees (for two semesters) from the international students who attend the American school for semester-long study.

Chart of the Four-Year Curriculum

Program Vision	9th Grade - Semester 1	10th Grade - Semester 1	11th Grade - Semester 1	12th Grade - Semester 1
Location	Vermont, USA	China	China	China
Program of Study and Activities	English, Sciences, Math, and Social Sciences. Personal Learning Plan (3 credits)	Chinese, English, Math 1, World History, Physics, Chemistry, Fine Arts, PE and Electives	Math 3, American History, Geography, English, PE, Music, College Counseling, and Electives	Chinese, American History, English, Biology, PE, Music, College Counseling, and Electives.
Program Vision	9th Grade - Semester 2	10th Grade - Semester 2	11th Grade - Semester 2	12th Grade - Semester 2
Location	China	China	China	Vermont, USA
Program of Study and Activities	Chinese, Chemistry, History, Politics, Math, English, Physics, and PE	Chinese, Chemistry, World History, Math 2, Physics, PE and Electives	Math 4, American History, Geography, English, Music, PE, and Electives	English, AP classes, Senior Defense, and Electives (3 credits)
Program Vision	Summer 4 weeks	Summer 4 weeks	Summer 4 weeks	
Location	China	China	China	
Program of Study and Activities	Project Anagnorisis (0.5 credits)	Project Anagnorisis (0.5 credits)	Advanced English: TOFEL & SAT prep. Edit/update Portfolio	