



NEWS RELEASE
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Taiwanese Teachers to Visit Iowa Schools

Educators to spend two weeks in the state observing Iowa teachers and the education system.

DES MOINES, Iowa – On April 13, teachers from Taiwan will arrive in Iowa to visit schools in the Ankeny, Des Moines, Southeast Polk and West Des Moines districts. The 15 visiting educators are elementary English language teachers seeking to learn more about Iowa's education system.

During their two-week stay, the teachers will not only observe various classrooms and meet with Iowa educators, but they will also visit local sites of interest and learn about Iowa culture. In addition, a reception for the teachers will be held at the Iowa Department of Education on Wednesday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m.

Their visit is made possible through a relationship between the Iowa Department of Education (DE) and the Taiwan Ministry of Education. The two organizations have worked together to increase cultural awareness, share best practices in education, and provide foreign language education opportunities for both students and teachers. Funds for the program are provided by the Taiwan Ministry of Education.

In addition to Taiwanese teachers coming to Iowa, Iowa teachers have the opportunity to teach in Taiwan. The exchange programs were recently expanded to provide Iowa administrators an opportunity to travel to Taiwan to interview potential Chinese language teachers from Taiwan, expanding foreign language opportunities for Iowa's students.

"This relationship is one of many steps Iowa is taking to help prepare our students for the 21st century," Iowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey said. Jeffrey herself visited Taiwan in 2006 to review its education system. "Not only are we sharing our culture with the visiting teachers, but we are providing an opportunity for both Iowa teachers and students to learn about the Taiwanese culture."

For more information, please visit the Iowa Department of Education website at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/689/665/>.

The Iowa Department of Education works with the State of Iowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary

schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.

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