



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District PIOs

FROM: Molly Spearman
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: March 24, 2015

RE: Beijing International Education Exchange (BIEE)
Summer Camp in Beijing, China

The South Carolina Department of Education is pleased to partner with the Beijing International Education Exchange (BIEE). The international division of the Beijing Municipal Education Commission is delighted to announce that invitations will be extended to 20 secondary school students from across South Carolina to attend the 5th Beijing International Student Summer Camp this year.

On behalf of BIEE, we invite all high schools in South Carolina to recommend 20 secondary students, between the ages of 14 to 18, to participate in the program. The camp will take place from July 14 – 23, 2015 in Beijing, China, according to the preliminary program, which is attached. Here are the basic details:

Date: July 14 – July 23, 2015
Format: Summer camp
Host: BCCIE
Location: Beijing, China
Who: 20 students + 2 teacher chaperones
Cost: \$2,200 (only covers the costs of the international ticket and visa). All in-China costs will be covered by the host, BIEE.

These spaces fill up quickly so please respond as soon as possible.

School districts should forward this information to interested teachers, students, and parents and ask that they complete the questionnaire and registration form and submit them to us by April 1st.

The trip will be paid in installments, with the first payment of \$500 due by April 15th, the second payment of \$700 by May 15th, and the third payment of \$1,000 by July 1st.

Program fees required from each student will include airfare and a visitor's visa to China. The cost of accommodations, meals, local transportation, tuition, and local activities in China will be fully covered by BIEE. Students are also encouraged to bring funds for personal use. In the past, some districts or schools have covered some or all of the fees for their participating students and your possible support this year in this regard would be appreciated.

We will also need two teachers to serve as chaperones. Districts are welcome to nominate a teacher to accompany the group (if a group is larger than 10 students). The \$2,200 in costs related to the chaperone's participation will need to be covered by the chaperone or ideally by his/her school district to facilitate participation.

This experience promises to be an amazing opportunity for a group of 20 high school students from across our state and we would encourage your support and participation.

For more information, please contact Sherry Schneider in the Office of Educator Services at sschneider@ed.sc.gov, (803) 896-0384.