

Partner School Communication Guide

2006-07 Edition



Connected
International

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Why is ConnectEd unique?

Many non-profit agencies send aid, ConnectEd is different because:

- we desire to demonstrate the ability to connect people through technology and to utilize the power of education that exists within that connection;
- we are a small, hands-on organization that integrates immersion and classroom experience for our U.S. school partners while providing essential services to educational institutions in developing nations .

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Contact us!

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Introduction

Partner Schools: Immerse your students in our unique online classroom. With little preparation on your part, students receive an exceptional learning experience. Here's how it works: We prepare videos, readings and other materials for your pre-immersion classes. Then, you log on at an established time and we take your students through the interactive experience with the Salvadoran students, all in Spanish or translated by us. The cultural lessons range from daily activities to regional history, you and your class decide! All lessons are transmitted via free, downloadable video conferencing software from [Skype](#) and reinforced with shared files, online whiteboards and chat so everyone can be involved! The only hardware you need is a webcam with a microphone. Participation varies from once per semester question and answer sessions to semester-long communication via e-mail, chat and conferences.

Sister Schools: ConnectEd also seeks schools that desire to establish a deeper relationship with one of our international sponsored schools. A Sister School participates much in the same way Partner Schools do, but with a long-term focus. The possibilities are limitless, from fundraising drives to help support programs at the sponsored school to cultural immersion trips, it's up to you! See page 6 for more information.

Sponsored Schools:

Santa Luisa Primary School, San Salvador, El Salvador

Santa Luisa is located in the central market of San Salvador. Students from first through ninth grade attend the school daily from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. When they finish their studies they head to the market to work with their parents. Before ConnectEd entered Santa Luisa, the school did not have a single computer. They also lacked a program that addressed nutrition for the students. Through cooperation with Santa Luisa, ConnectEd and sponsors within the United States, Santa Luisa now has a computer lab and a nutrition program. The computer lab has 20 computers, five of which are equipped with internet access. Keyboarding, general computer use, photography and English classes are offered to the students through the ConnectEd program at no additional cost.

The nutrition program sponsored by ConnectEd is based on soy which provides much needed protein to the students. Each sponsored student receives one glass of soy milk daily and brings home dough from the soy beans to be used in cooking. ConnectEd currently sponsors 200 of the neediest students at Santa Luisa. The total student population is almost 600. ConnectEd also holds workshops that parents of the students are encouraged to attend. The workshops serve to teach parents how to use soy products when cooking foods that the family eats everyday.

Community Education Project, La Javilla, El Salvador

Still under construction as of August 2006, the computer resource center in the rural community of La Javilla will serve primary and secondary students in the area. The schools the children attend in the nearby town of Tepecoyo do not have computer instruction, therefore ConnectEd has teamed up with a local Salvadoran non-profit and community members to meet that need. Students will receive formal computer instruction two to three times per week. Similarly, women from the community will attend workshops and classes at the resource center. A soy milk program is also planned.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Work is underway to begin new technology and nutrition projects in the urban slums of Buenos Aires. Projected start date is March, 2007.

Mission and Objectives

Through its Partner Schools program ConnectEd seeks:

- To build relationships between students in developing nations and in the United States through e-mail, photos, web conferences and online conversations in to share education for development.
- To provide economic assistance for the students' educational institution in developing nations.
- To teach useful computer and technology skills to the Salvadoran students.
- To provide support for a nutrition program within the school.
- To provide an in-class, Spanish language and/or cultural immersion experience for US students.

Expectations and Responsibilities

We encourage interested teachers to run a test conference with the Program Coordinators in El Salvador in order to familiarize them with the technology, discuss program curriculum and the processes involved prior to beginning student conferences.

ConnectEd Responsibilities:

- Provide computer lab and internet access for sponsored schools' students (includes e-mail accounts, internet access, conference technology and web cam).
- Provide classes in keyboarding, Windows applications, Internet and general computer usage.
- Plan and facilitate communication between students with input of U.S. teachers.
- Establish and manage soy-based nutrition program on-site in sponsored schools.

U.S. School Responsibilities:

- Provide conference technology for U.S. students to communicate with sponsored school. This includes:
 - 1) Computer lab (preferably with technician to assist)
 - 2) [iVisit](#) or [Skype](#) free-download technology (see page 6 for more information)
 - 3) Computer speakers (see page 6)
 - 4) Web cam with microphone (see page 6)
- Provide appropriate time for approximately four 45 minute long conferences throughout the semester. Total estimated class time = 3 hours.* (see page 3)
- Collaborate on the format and structure of conferences along with the pedagogy of the program.
- ConnectEd International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and depends on U.S. schools' donations for the program's subsistence. See page 5 for more information.

*During the first semester of involvement, it is recommended to shorten the commitment to one conference with students as a trial and proceed after providing feedback.

Example Timeline

(final timeline to be determined with teacher collaboration)

Fall Semester

Sept. US teachers and ConnectEd Co-Directors hold online conference to test connection compatibility, train US teachers in iVisit software usage and discuss pedagogy of program. (approx. 30 minutes)

US students are introduced to the program and instructed to begin background research on El Salvador/ Argentina/ Latin America (students can begin search with links at the [ConnectEd website](#)).

Salvadoran students are introduced to the program and begin computer classes (keyboarding, internet usage and e-mail).

1 Oct. US-Salvadoran students are paired. E-mails and messages on the [ConnectEd blog](#) are exchanged as introduction (outside of class time).

Partners are informed of responsibilities of learning about each other: family, hobbies, goals, activities, etc. (outside of class time).

15 Oct. Conference 1: Group presentations, greeting/ introduction to other group and quick personal introductions so partners can meet each other. In-class, approx. 45 min.

E-mail and messages continue to be exchanged.

1 Nov. Conferences 2/3: Partners introduce each other to the classes (student being introduced sits in front of camera, other partner speaks in microphone). Question sessions afterwards with prepared questions regarding curiosities of other location. In-class, approx. 45 min. each conference.

1 Dec. Final Conference: Groups summarize their experiences for the other group, exchange farewells and hope of continued contact.

Sample Class Plan

(for preliminary conference during initial semester)

Pre- Class Preparation:

- Teacher introduces program and the fact that the students will be able to talk directly with students in El Salvador/ Argentina.
- Students research El Salvador/ Argentina (using [ConnectEd website](#) as a starting point), formulate questions and submit them to teacher. (preparation can be done in-class or as homework assignment)
- These questions are then exchanged via e-mail with ConnectEd in order that the students can prepare answers.
- Students in each class are paired for chatting during conference.

Class Day:

- Set-up/ connect technology, students log-in to computers/[chat](#). (5 min.)
- Students are instructed to introduce themselves and begin asking questions. (5 min.)
- Half of the class gathers around the computer with web cam and pairs are able to talk face-to-face to introduce each other to classmates. (15 min.)
- Groups change, those chatting talk on the web cam and vice-versa. (15 min.)
- Students are instructed to say goodbye and close programs/ clean-up. (5 min.)

Sample Student Questions

How old are you? What grade are you in?

How many brothers and sisters do you have?

How far away from school do you live? How do you get to school?

What do you do in your free time? Do you work? If so, where?

Who are your friends? What do you do together?

What kinds of foods do you eat? What is your favorite food?

What sports do you play? Which is your favorite soccer team? Favorite player?

Have you traveled outside of El Salvador? If so, where?

Do you have family members in the United States? What do they do there?

What do your parents do for work? What do you do with them when they are not working?

What is your school like? What classes do you take? Are you learning English?

What is your neighborhood like? Are there parks? A soccer field?

What do you do during your summer vacation? For Christmas?

What job do you want to have in the future? How much schooling do you need for that job?

What do you know about the United States? What do you want to know?

Program Fiscal Data

Connect Education International is a U.S. non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Tax Code. As such, it relies on tax-deductible donations, grants and school partnerships for funding. Below is a brief overview of initial costs and yearly expenses for each of our technology programs in the educational institutions:

Technology	Initial	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Computers/ Shipping	\$2,000					\$2,000
Instructor		\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$3,600
Internet	\$280	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$1,120
Maintenance/ Installation	\$500	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$900
Development/ Software		\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$400

In addition to the technology program, donations are used to sustain a soy-based nutrition program which caters to the neediest students in the school. In total, the programs cost approximately **\$8,000.00** per school per year to maintain.

After the initial trial semester, schools are asked to donate **\$400.00** per semester for the services provided by ConnectEd International. In essence, the sponsored schools receives funding in exchange for real-time video conferences and language immersion between its students and students in the United States. Schools are encouraged to fundraise this donation with the involvement of the students to raise awareness of international realities.

Sister Schools

Through the sister schools program, ConnectEd seeks to establish a lasting relationship between Sponsored Schools and US Schools. In that manner, US Schools can participate not only in the immersion experience provided by ConnectEd conferences, but also play an active role in supporting the technology and nutrition projects at a Sponsored School. US Schools are encouraged to raise funds to match the program costs at their Sister School (typical commitment is \$8,000). These funds can be raised through student drives, student activities or at a school's fundraising event (i.e. selling a few items to benefit the Sister School at the US School's yearly fundraising auction). Please contact one of the Executive Directors listed on the Index page for more information.

Tax Deductible Donations:

Make check out to: Connect Education International
 Mail to: ConnectEd International
 C/O Elizabeth McDermott
 9024 McKnight Woods
 St. Louis, MO 63117

Download Guide and Technology Requirements

Ask your Information Technology staff if you have the following...

Hardware Requirements:

- Computer lab with at least enough computers connected to the internet to share for chat (no more than 5 students per computer)
- One computer with:
 - Windows 95/98/2000/ME/XP or NT 4.0, Pentium 90 MHz, 32 MB RAM, and internet connection with free conference software installed (see Software Requirements below)
 - Sound card
 - Speakers
 - Web cam with microphone (ConnectEd recommends the [Logitech QuickCam Pro 5000](#), available at any electronics store or online)

Software Requirements:

- For Windows XP; [Skype](#) free conference software
 - Click on the Skype link above,
 - Follow the on-screen directions (be sure to ask IT for saving location)
- For Mac or older versions of Windows: [iVisit](#) free conference software (or other similar software as advances are made in web conferencing constantly)
 - Click the iVisit link above,
 - Click on “Download iVisit 3.5.4 installer”,
 - Click “Run” on the pop-up window,
 - Click “Yes” on the agreement,
 - Follow instructions for installation (be sure to ask IT for saving location)

Important URLs: (click on the link or type address into browser)

- This document www.connectededucation.org/pdf/ConnectEdPartnerInfo.pdf
- ConnectEd US Schools page www.connectededucation.org/usschools.html
- ConnectEd Chat www.connectededucation.org/X7Chat/
- ConnectEd Blog www.connectededucation.org/WordPress/
- ConnectEd El Salvador info page www.connectededucation.org/elsal.html
- ConnectEd News and Photos www.connectededucation.org/news.html
- iVisit www.ivisit.com
- Skype www.skype.com