Memorandum of Understanding

for the exchange of German principals to the United States of America

between the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States Department of State

(German Principals Program)

The Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (Foreign Office) and the United States Department of State, referred to as "the Sides," recognize that the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) currently offers thousands of German citizens the opportunity to teach, study, train, observe, or conduct research in the United States. The Sides desire to encourage additional exchange opportunities, co-operation, and partnership between the Sides, and they wish to promote mutual enrichment by enhancing American knowledge of foreign cultures, language, and educational systems.

The Sides have reached the following mutual understandings regarding the intent to establish an exchange of German principals to secondary schools overseen and financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany (Deutsche Auslandsschulen – DAS) within the United States of America ("the Program"):

(1) **Category** – The Sides intend for the Program to be implemented under the existing Exchange Visitor Program regulations (22 CFR Part 62) and the Specialist category (22 CFR 62.26), except as otherwise provided for in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Prospective Program participants are expected to be experts in a field of specialized knowledge or skills who travel to the United States for the purpose of observing, consulting, or demonstrating their special skills.

(2) **Eligibility** – The Sides expect that each participant in the Program:

(a) be a German citizen and hold a valid German passport;

(b) have teaching certification for the lower and upper secondary levels or an advanced degree equivalent to a Master's degree in school administration or a similar field;

(c) have substantial experience (generally at least four (4) years) as a principal or other high-level school administrator;

(d) possess excellent English language skills as tested in the selection process through a documented in-person or virtual interview; and

(e) have a willingness to cooperate with educational and cultural institutions in the United States.

(3) **Selection** – The Sides expect that Program participants be selected by the Federal Foreign Office and its subordinate authority, the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen), through a publicly advertised process.

(4) **Placement** – The Sides intend for Program participants to be placed as principals (Schulleiter/in) in a German school in the United States that is recognized and overseen by the Federal Foreign Office. Although the principal position filled by the participant may remain a long-term one for the school, varying individual principals, including Program participants, may serve in that role.

(5) **U.S. sponsor** – The designated U.S. sponsor(s) is/are expected to educate Program participants on EVP requirements and monitor the exchange visitors in accordance with the requirements set forth in 22 CFR 62.10(d) and 62.11(b).

(6) **Program duration** – The Sides expect participants to have a Program duration in the United States of three years, subject to the terms of their visa. Program participants are eligible for one-time repeat participation in the Program upon the exchange visitor's valid application.

(7) **Visa** - German nationals who are prospective Program participants are expected to receive a Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status (Form DS-2019) from the U.S. sponsor in order to apply for a J-1 visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate. The spouse and children of a J-1 Program participant are eligible to apply for J-2 visas.

(8) **Insurance** – The Program participant in J-1 status and his/her spouse and children in J-2 status are expected to meet all insurance requirements set forth in 22 CFR 62.14 of the Exchange Visitor Program regulations.

(9) **Participation** – Requirements for Program participants are set forth in 22 CFR Part 62, except as provided herein.

(10) **Program review** - The Sides intend to meet annually, or as needed, to review the administration and outcomes of this MOU, including but not limited to the number of participants from the previous year and any administrative provisions affecting the understanding of this MOU.

(11) **Duration** - The MOU becomes operative upon the date of last signature of the Sides and is operative for five years subject to extension upon the mutual decision of both Sides. The Sides may modify this MOU, at any time, through mutual written decision.

(12) **Discontinuation of MOU** – Either Side may discontinue this MOU at any time, but is expected to give 90 days prior written notice of an intent to discontinue the MOU. Discontinuation of the MOU does not affect the validity of visas already issued by the United States.

(13) **Intentions** – This MOU does not create any legal obligations for the Sides. The MOU does not preclude reciprocal exchange opportunities for U.S. principals to Germany, and the Sides may reach a mutual understanding and further define the particulars of such program in an addendum to this MOU.

Signed in duplicate in the English and German languages, both texts being equally official.

For the United States Department of State

Lee Satterfield

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Assistant Secretary,
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Washington, D.C.
November 13, 2023

For the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany

Andreas Michaelis

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States

Washington, D.C.
November 15, 2023