



Global Connections and Exchange Program

U.S. Department of State
Office of Citizen Exchanges

Global Connections and Exchange programs offer opportunities for teachers and students to share their cultures with classrooms throughout the world. Teachers have the opportunity to select countries of interest and partner with teachers overseas to design and implement short, collaborative projects that enhance social studies curricula and expand students' worldview. Classrooms communicate with each other through monitored discussion boards, forums and other online platforms.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, U.A.E., Uzbekistan

CLASSROOMS WITHOUT BORDERS

Students hone research and cross-cultural communication skills as they expand their world vision and gain perspectives that will help them succeed in the international arena. At the same time, global perceptions enhance lessons and raise awareness as students use technology to tackle universal issues such as gender equity, health, environment, diversity, and human rights. As a result, students are empowered to create a better world for all.

TRAVEL

Some programs include educational travel to partner countries. These physical exchanges strengthen mutual understanding and give students and teachers the opportunity to solidify virtual relationships by meeting their partners face-to-face, visiting schools and sharing information about their countries with the partner community.

Quick Snapshot

- Ms. Deborah Stapleton of Dr. Howard Elementary School, Champaign, Illinois, credits the Armenia School Connectivity Program for her winning a \$2,500 Best Buy Tech Award.
- Eleven Global Connections schools in Azerbaijan received support through a \$9,240 grant from Exxon/Mobil.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teachers receive training on computer applications, web development and the use of the Internet to enhance lesson plans. Teachers also enhance skills needed to engage in collaborative activities, such as team-building and the development of online modules that incorporate national educational standards.

Afghan students at TeleCenter



CONTACTS

U.S. teachers interested in collaborating with one or more countries may contact Anna Mussman, State Department Program Officer, at MussmanAP@state.gov
Program websites:

- **Armenia:** www.projectharmony.am
- **Azerbaijan:** www.projectharmony.az
- **Uzbekistan:** www.connect.uz/
- **Tajikistan:** www.connect-tajikistan.org
- **Bangladesh:** www.connect-bangladesh.org
- **Afghanistan:** www.connect-afghanistan.org
- **Palestinian Authority:** www.connectmiddleeast.org/
- **Bahrain, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Syria, UAE, Uzbekistan**
- <http://us.learns.org/collaborate/programs/bridge/index.php>

Youth Programs Division website:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/students/worldwide/connections.htm>



