

## Publicize Your Participation

Tell us and other schools how you plan to commemorate IEW. Go to <http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/> and click on "Get Involved." You also can see how other schools and institutions around the globe are exploring the possibilities of international education.

## Contact Info

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Visit:

- <http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/>
- <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/students/>
- <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/educationusa/>

# Celebrating International Education Week with Your High School Students:

## A Guide For Educators

"To better understand this new 21<sup>st</sup> century world, we need to expose our children to languages, cultures and the challenges outside our borders. We must teach our students to understand world issues and their connections to them."

**Rodney Paige**

*Secretary of Education, 2004*



"We are all students of the world we live in, and today, our world is more interdependent than ever before. The challenges we face in areas such as security, democratic development, economics, and health cannot be addressed by any country acting alone. International education learning about other cultures and languages through study, living overseas, and interacting with people of other countries promotes the free exchange of ideas, allows us to seek joint solutions to problems, and helps create lasting partnerships to meet our shared concerns."

**Colin L. Powell**

*Secretary of State, 2004*

We hope that students, faculty and members of your community will participate in events celebrating International Education Week. To help you with publicity, we have made promotional material and templates available to you through our website. Select "Download Promotional Materials."

November 15-19, 2004  
November 14-18, 2005  
November 13-17, 2006



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## What is International Education Week (IEW)?

International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. IEW is observed annually in November, during the full week before Thanksgiving. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our effort to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and interact in the United States.

Students can play a unique and vital role in this celebration. Every day, your students are forming their own opinions about the world around them. Bombarded with popular media, political debates and news coverage, it is sometimes hard for students to put a human face on international events. IEW provides your students with the opportunity to interact on a personal level, foster connections and share their ideas. Take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate with your students and community!

## Get Involved! Highlight your International Students

Encourage your students to participate in IEW events. One of the best places to start is with your American students' international peers and American exchange alumni.

Each year, U.S. State Department programs bring several thousand high school students from around the world to the United States. These students come not only to learn

about our culture, but also to teach us about theirs. These programs include:



**Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX):** for students from the countries of Eurasia (the former Soviet Union),



**Youth Exchange and Studies (YES):** for students from countries with significant Muslim populations, and



**Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX):** a reciprocal exchange for German and American students.

During past IEW celebrations, these foreign exchange students have made presentations at their U.S. host schools on a variety of topics including national food, cultural expressions, and daily life in their home countries. In addition, they have participated in IEW assemblies, made presentations at elementary and middle schools, addressed civic organizations, and have been interviewed by local media.

These scholarship winners were selected through a rigorous testing process and are outstanding ambassadors from their countries. Hosting one of these remarkable students, would have a positive impact on your school. To learn more about getting involved, please visit [www.volunteers.state.gov](http://www.volunteers.state.gov).

## Other Ways to Get Involved

We encourage you to incorporate a wide variety of events into your celebration of IEW. The following list includes suggested activities, but it is just a start. We hope you and your students will be creative in planning events.

- Join a Global Connections and Exchange or a School Connectivity Program to interact with schools overseas. These U.S. State Department programs enhance the use of information technologies and develop linkages between U.S. and foreign schools to foster mutual understanding among students and teachers. (find regional connectivity websites listed at <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/students/programlist.htm>)
- Get involved with **Youth Service America (YSA)**, a resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people in America to serve locally, nationally, and globally. (<http://www.ysa.org/>)
- Explore international aspects of the arts—music, film, theatre, visual arts, literature, dance—by creating, performing, or studying artworks with an international component.
- Organize a cross-cultural potluck lunch in which students bring foods from their homeland or ancestors' homeland.
- Participate in a Model UN.
- Assign students to produce a video or website about their cross-cultural experiences. The video could explore issues of cultural idiosyncrasies, stereotypes, and/or their own experiences in another culture.
- Hold a Geography, Foreign Language, or World History Bee with your students.