



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 17, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We in the Office of Overseas Schools would like to wish you and your school a successful new school year. This past summer was extraordinarily busy for our office. We again sponsored a large number of staff development activities attended by hundreds of overseas schools personnel, and we were able to obtain additional funding to enhance security in your schools. Most of you have already received the Phase II grants for this purpose. If you have any questions about the security grants, please contact your Regional Education Officer.

It is my pleasure to send you the attached announcement of the Summer 2010 staff development opportunities sponsored by the Office of Overseas Schools. We hope this early notice will assist you in advance planning with your staff. As noted, applications will be available after January 4, 2010.

I am also including a new brochure about Project AERO. AERO is dedicated to assisting overseas schools in developing and implementing standards-based curriculum. A website (www.projectaero.org) has been developed, and five CDs are available to provide resources. In addition, regional AERO workshops are being supported by our office and your regional association. This year three additional initiatives have been launched:

- A new CD containing a Mathematics Curriculum Framework
- Development of a Science Curriculum Framework
- Offering a new strand in the 2010 AERO Summer Institute: Using MAP and other data to inform decisions and improve learning

I trust that all of you are undertaking emergency pandemic planning and have established liaison with your post and medical advisor and communication with your school community. On August 14, 2009 a cable was sent to all diplomatic and consular posts containing guidance for posts on pandemic issues related to overseas schools. In case you have not received a copy, I am enclosing it for your information.

We hope that you will find these materials useful in your emergency planning and in your efforts to improve your school's curriculum and that you will consider participating in the Summer 2010 workshops sponsored by A/OS.

Again, all our best wishes for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Miller".

Keith Miller

Director

Office of Overseas Schools