

MEMORANDUM

To: County Superintendents
Middle School & High School Principals

From: Melanie Purkey, Executive Director, Office of Federal Programs
Robert Crawford, Assistant Director, Office of Federal Programs

Date: January 10, 2014

Re: **2014 West Virginia Spanish Language Immersion Camp**

The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) is pleased to announce the continuation of the West Virginia Spanish Language Immersion Camp (WVSLIC). Following the success of the 2012 and 2013 programs, WVDE will once again sponsor a seven-day residential Spanish immersion program that will take place **June 25-July 1, 2014** at **Cedar Lakes Conference Center** in **Ripley, WV**. The camp is inspired by the nationally-known Concordia Languages Villages and will provide student participants an opportunity to immerse in the language, food, music, art, history, geography and customs of the Spanish-speaking world while engaging in authentic hands-on studies. Participants will be challenged to communicate only in Spanish and to develop a deeper appreciation of the responsibilities associated with being a conscientious global citizen. The program will be open to current 8th – 11th grade students who will have completed the equivalency of Spanish I by the start of the camp. A minimum of two program slots will be guaranteed for each WV county.

County Level Distribution and Feedback:

The county superintendent or designee is encouraged to support WCSLIC by assisting with the distribution of program application materials and by providing input regarding the final selection of preferred county participants. Below is a listing of procedures and timelines that will serve to streamline the application and selection process:

- **January 10, 2014 – March 14, 2014** – The county superintendent or designee will make available to all middle and high schools in the county the online link <http://wvconnections.k12.wv.us/spanish-camp/> to the student application form. Private and parochial school students will be eligible to participate. Likewise, home-schooled students will be eligible, but it will be the responsibility of the parents to contact the county.
- **March 21, 2014** – The county superintendent will receive an e-mail communication containing a list of all of the qualified applicants who have applied from within the county. The superintendent or designee will have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the selection and ranking of the applicants. This

ranking will serve as a criterion for the selection process conducted by the state committee.

School Level Responsibilities:

School administrators, counselors and teachers are encouraged to assist with the WVSLIC application distribution process by completing the following tasks:

- Inform all qualifying students of their eligibility. Encourage students who will have completed Spanish I by the start of the camp to consider applying. Heritage speakers who have demonstrated Spanish I equivalency will also be eligible to apply.
- Post the link to the online application form in the classroom and make intercom and class announcements as appropriate to make students aware of the program.
- Poll students to gauge interest and explore teachable moments that might encourage discussions about the benefits of language learning and how the camp could assist students with that process.
- Remind students of the **March 14, 2014** deadline to complete application materials.
- Make the application link accessible to all qualifying students. (Provide arrangements for students to have access to the internet for those who might not have access at home).

MBP:RAC:dsr