



**We are pleased to invite you to participate in a unique educational exchange program organized by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), and the Provincial Education Department of Guangdong Province, China.**

This 12-day tour and education exchange scheduled for April 2027 will be led by Paul K. Smith and Erin McGurk offering opportunities to visit significant historical sites in Beijing - the nation's capital, as well as Xi'an - the ancient capital, followed by formal visits to educational programs in the Guangdong Province. The goal of the exchange is to establish both educational and political relations between our state's educational institutions and the strong educational programs in the Guangdong Province of China.

In addition to engaging with local schools and government officials during our stay in the capital city, Guangzhou in the Guangdong Province, the CAPSS-CAS-GUANGDONG exchange presents an excellent opportunity to explore significant sites included in the attached itinerary.

This initiative supported by CAPSS and CAS is not based on any business interests. Our primary goal is to ensure the continued strength of both educational and political connections between our state and strong educational programs in China.

A sample itinerary is attached for your review with the intent of giving attendees significant notice of travel. If you are interested, please contact Paul Smith via email at [psmith@schoolworksconsulting.com](mailto:psmith@schoolworksconsulting.com) and you will be included in regular updates. There is no commitment if you share your email, so please do not hesitate to add your name to the list to receive additional information as it becomes available. No payment is required to reserve a place until October 2026. Once the group is identified, there will be online/in-person meetings to prepare participants for traveling in China.

We anticipate that this initiative will effectively highlight the efforts of CAPSS and CAS in creating valuable education conversations and relationships. We look forward to hearing from you if interested. You are welcome to pass this invitation on to any appropriate colleagues in your district, as well. Please note that the tour is limited to approximately 25 participants (including family members).

Please feel free to reach out via email if you have any questions.

Best regards,  
Paul Smith - [psmith@schoolworksconsulting.com](mailto:psmith@schoolworksconsulting.com)  
Erin McGurk - [emcgurk@comcast.net](mailto:emcgurk@comcast.net)

# CHINA 2027

## CAPSS-CAS-GUANGDONG Exchange

April 12-23, 2027

*Beijing – Xi'an – Guangzhou*



You are cordially invited to take part in a 12-day tour and educational exchange program organized by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), and the Provincial Education Department of Guangdong Province, China.

The Connecticut delegation led by Paul K. Smith and Erin McGurk offers opportunities to visit significant historical sites in Beijing - the nation's capital, as well as Xi'an - the ancient capital, followed by formal visits to educational programs in the Guangdong Province. The goal of the exchange is to establish both educational and political relations between our state's educational institutions and the strong educational programs in the Guangdong Province of China.

Information available from Paul K. Smith – [psmith@schoolworksconsulting.com](mailto:psmith@schoolworksconsulting.com) and Erin McGurk – [emcgurk@comcast.net](mailto:emcgurk@comcast.net).

Day 1 April 12	<b>Hartford / New York JFK Flight to Beijing, China</b> Depart for Beijing from Hartford / New York City
Day 2 April 13	<b>Beijing</b> Arrive Beijing in the late afternoon Hotel in Beijing
Day 3 April 14	<b>Beijing</b> Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Rickshaw Bike, Hutong Family Tour, Lama Temple, Jade Factory, Peking Duck Restaurant, Chinese Kong Fu Show Hotel in Beijing
Day 4 April 15	<b>Beijing</b> Excursion to the Great Wall, Emperor's Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven Pearl Factory, Tea Ceremony Hotel in Beijing
Day 5 April 16	<b>Beijing to Xi'an via High Speed Train (4.5 hours)</b> Ming Dynasty City Wall of Xi'an, Wild Goose Pagoda Hotel in Xi'an

Day 6 April 17	<b>Xi'an</b> Excursion to world-renown Terracotta Warriors Museum Hotel in Xi'an
Day 7 April 18	<b>Xi'an</b> Muslim Quarter, Grand Mosque of Xi'an, Old Town, Shaanxi Museum Dumpling Banquet with Cultural Show Hotel in Xi'an
Day 8 April 19	<b>Xi'an to Guangzhou via Flight</b> <b>Introduction to Provincial Education Leaders</b> Canton Tower Hotel in Guangzhou
Day 9 April 20	<b>Guangzhou / Guangdong Province</b> <b>School Visits and Partnership Exchanges</b> Zhujiang New Town and Huacheng Square in Evening Hotel in Guangzhou
Day 10 April 21	<b>Guangzhou / Guangdong Province</b> <b>School Visits and Partnership Exchanges</b> Taikoo Hui and Pearl River Cruise in Evening Hotel in Guangzhou
Day 11 April 22	<b>Guangzhou / Guangdong Province</b> <b>School Visits and Partnership Exchanges</b> <b>Partnership Closing Banquet in Evening</b> Hotel in Guangzhou
Day 12 April 23	<b>Guangzhou to New York JFK</b> Depart for Hartford, CT in the afternoon Arrive Hartford in the late evening on the same day




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**Cost Estimate per Person: *Price will be confirmed in September 2026***

**12-Day Tour \$5,000**

**All hotel rooms will be single occupancy**

Participation is open to all Superintendents, retired Superintendents, Central Office Administrators, Principals, and School Administrators. Teachers with Superintendent permission are welcome. Family members are also welcome. Children attending should be in high school or older.

**Cost includes:**

- Chinese visa fees (US \$140 per person)
- All meals and expenses during the duration of the trip
- Economy-class flights to Beijing and return from Guangzhou
- 4-star hotels based on single occupancy with full breakfasts
- All China domestic train fares and flights as specified in the itinerary
- All entrance fees, private chartered buses, tips, and English-speaking tour guides

***Individual extensions can be arranged including Hong Kong, Shanghai, or Singapore.***

If interested, email [psmith@schoolworksconsulting.com](mailto:psmith@schoolworksconsulting.com) for updates and additional information. All arrangements for travel are through Sunlight Travel, Mr. Zhen Peng.