



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Developing Effective International Education Partnerships



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INTRODUCTION

Like many other Boards of Education in Ontario, the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) has supported various forms of international education. For many years administrators and staff in the DSBN have encouraged student exchanges, promoted the study of international cultures and languages, hosted delegations from abroad, visited educational jurisdictions in other parts of the world, and established protocols and designated staff in order to welcome and support parents and students who have come to live in Canada.

A few years ago, however, the DSBN initiated a formal relationship with a private school in Vietnam, the Canadian International School of Vietnam (CIS-VN) located in Ho Chi Minh City. This initiative has allowed the DSBN to have a role in creating and shaping an international school through its consultative agreement with CIS-VN. More recently, the DSBN has been afforded the opportunity to help create and shape a second private school in Vietnam, the Bilingual Canadian International School (BCIS) through a similar consultative process. Together these schools were referred to as Canadian International School System Vietnam (CISS-VN).

In addition, DSBN has worked with the Ontario Ministry of Education to create pathways for the students of CIS-VN to earn an OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) by choosing among several pathways, even though CIS-VN was not a Ministry-inspected school. As a result, in June of 2013, the first group of students from CIS-VN graduated with their OSSD. Many of them have proceeded to study at colleges and universities in various countries, including Canada, the United States, and Australia. This document is intended to provide an overview of DSBN's relationship with CIS-VN and to set out some of the components of this experience that may be of interest and value to educators in other jurisdictions who are seeking to establish meaningful partnerships with international schools.

