

David S. Wolk
Commissioner



State of Vermont
Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

August 30, 2001

Dear School Principal:

The Department of Education is sending this letter as a follow-up to our previous correspondence regarding the People of America Foundation. We would like to offer you the opportunity to participate in what is believed to be a very worthwhile project. When funded, this project will provide increased educational opportunities for Vermont schoolchildren, targeted support for staff development and new materials tied directly to our state's social studies curricular framework.

As educators, we are amazed by the continuously increasing amount of information available to our teachers and students via the Internet. Yet this enthusiasm needs to be tempered by concerns about the quality, reliability, inclusiveness and, sometimes, even the appropriateness of the material. The People of America Foundation was established to address these concerns. It aims to collect, organize, distribute and maintain, at no cost to the public, the largest and most inclusive electronic database of the peopling of the United States; the database will be keyed to individual state social studies standards.

The Foundation has designed this program so that all costs of developing and maintaining the database will be borne by corporate sponsors (please see the attached information sheet). The national Web site through which the database will be accessed will carry appropriate sponsorship recognition but will not contain commercial advertising. Neither will the print publications developed through this initiative include advertisements. The sponsors' value, in addition to demonstrating their support for today's youth, will be derived from the enormous good will they will generate by making this information available to the public. As an important first step in its plan, the Foundation has acquired the rights to the Americans All® National Education Program.

We are very excited about this new project. The Foundation is not new; through Americans All®, it has been a developer of diversity-based teaching materials for more than 18 years. Because the Foundation understands that demographics vary, it will rely on each state's education system to develop and use the commercial-free data in a manner that best serves the needs of its students. The Foundation will also provide each school with a printed summary of the most important state-specific elements included in the electronic database, creating a much-needed bridge between print and digital media.

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We will represent the Foundation in Vermont. Our multiyear development plan for these new resources will also include an opportunity for teachers from participating schools to publish their most effective lesson plans. This will assist them in their professional growth and increase the volume of quality, grassroots material for the national Web site.

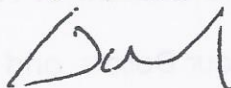
With your help, we can lead the way to make this program a reality. All that you, or your authorized representative, needs to do is: visit the American's All® Foundation Web site at www.americansall.com; take a moment to review the quality of the sample materials; and then go to the principal's page to register your school.

This registration, for which there is no cost, provides the Foundation with the school contact and demographic information it needs to keep this project moving forward. It also gives you the opportunity to select the grade-level teacher's guides and instructional videos you desire.

Again, there is no cost to participate in the Foundation's initiative. By taking just a few minutes to register, you will be helping to provide safe and high-quality materials for our children and the diversity-based resources your teachers need to be more effective in today's classrooms. You will be supporting a program to make local and state history information available to all students—not just those in Vermont—and to have free, direct access to all materials used in other states. And, you will be helping to encourage corporations to make an investment in social studies education.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Foundation president Allan Kullen at (301) 982-5622 or allan@americansall.com or anyone in our office. Thank you for your interest and support.

Respectfully yours,



David S. Wolk
Commissioner



STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Memorandum

To: Principals
CC: Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators
From: Jill L. Peck, VT DOE
Date: 11/19/01
Re: AmericansAll® Project

Attached you find a flyer about the AmericansAll® Project. Please take the time to read this flyer and register for the AmericansAll® Materials. Not only will your school receive these valuable resources, but Vermont will also receive financial support to develop our own state specific materials. If you have questions do not hesitate to contact me at 828-5129 or jpeck@doe.state.vt.us.

REGISTER NOW!

FOR THE AMERICANSALL® MATERIALS

What is AmericansAll®?

The Foundation's mission is to help this nation, especially its students, understand the social and economic value created by its diversity. It will accomplish this by continuing to develop national, state-specific and cultural databases that provide an accurate social and political history of the nation, as well as generic, thematic lesson units and individual lesson plans that help educators meet the requirements of new standards-based instructional guidelines.

What do we get?

At a minimum, each school is guaranteed the following.

- ◆ **One Teacher Resource Package.** This package contains one complete set of the Americans All® resource materials, the music program, the poster collection, the photograph collection and a CD-ROM of all program components.
- ◆ **Two Teacher Overview Packages.** Each package contains one copy of *The Peopling of America: A Timeline of Events That Helped Shape Our Nation*, *The Peopling of America: A Synoptic History* and grade-level-specific teacher's guide.
- ◆ **Two Grade-Level-Specific In-Service Training Videos.** Three different videos, one each for the elementary, middle and high school grades, are available. Each school will receive two videos and may choose two of the same grade level or one each of two different grade levels. A separate teacher's guide will be supplied with these videos.

Additional copies of the teacher resource package, the teacher overview packages and the Photograph and poster collections will be provided to schools with larger enrollments to ensure the program reaches the maximum number of students

What do we do?

Go to www.americansall.com and click on the registration icon in the top right hand corner. Enter your school information and submit. You are now registered.

Why should we do it?

Besides receiving these valuable resources, you will be helping Vermont receive financial support to develop state specific materials related to our History/Social Sciences Standards. These Vermont AmericansAll Materials will include resources such as a Vermont Timeline, a photo collection, poster collection and other curriculum, instruction, and assessment materials such as units, lesson plans, and primary sources.

What are we obligated to do?

To participate in this distribution, for which there is no cost, a school must verify its enrollment because the quantity and composition of materials each school will receive as a gift from the Foundation depends on its student enrollment. In addition, each school must provide the Foundation with the names of two instructors who will serve as liaisons to ensure that the program materials will be used. These liaisons will also receive information about professional development opportunities available to your school.

Where can I get more information about this?

Please contact Allan Kullen, People of America Foundation, at (301) 982-5622, ext. 159 or by E-mail at allan@americansall.com. If you would like to speak to a Vermont representative please contact Jill Peck at 828-5129 or jpeck@doe.state.vt.us.



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CURRICULUM COUNCIL AND
ORGANIZATION/DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE (SEE ATTACHED LISTS)

To: Vermont Social Studies Coordinators
From: Allan Kullen, People of America Foundation President
Subject: Update on Pilot in Vermont
Date: January 28, 2002

As a followup to the Americans All® Vermont project and in response to questions we have received from school principals, the enclosed information has been sent to all schools in Vermont.

Thank you for your support of this initiative.



People of America Foundation

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CURRICULUM COUNCIL AND
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To: Registered Vermont School Principals
From: Allan Kullen, People of America Foundation President
Subject: Update on Pilot in Vermont
Date: January 28, 2002

Thank you for registering for Americans All® Vermont. As you know, your state has been selected to serve as a national pilot site for a historical investigation and curriculum development project with the People of America Foundation. The project's goals are to offer free, high-quality, locally approved, and diversity-based social studies materials as a supplement to existing social studies curriculum materials. Nevada and North Dakota are also participating in the pilot. Including three states with different demographics and geographic locations increases the reliability of the test data.

Through this project, the Foundation will create a national Web site that will house state databases created by social studies experts within each state. These databases will make local and state history information available to students across the United States. In addition, all information in these databases will link directly to each state's social studies scope and sequence and to its assessment and testing requirements. Schools will also have free, direct access to curriculum and teaching materials used elsewhere in the nation. Further, by providing a greater choice of screened and approved curriculum and teaching materials, including text, audio and visual materials, the project also will provide more tools to those who teach children with special needs.

We have been contacting principals because you are the key decision-makers within schools. We have asked you to signal your support of the project to potential funders by registering your school at www.americansall.com. The response within Vermont has been excellent. We are nearly ready to begin this initiative and want to update you on our efforts.

What does registration mean for your school? What are we asking of your teachers?

Project registration is an opportunity, not an obligation. It costs nothing for your school to participate in the Foundation's initiative. Registration ensures that your school will receive multiple copies of the print materials that complement the state's database and other free, state-approved curriculum and teaching materials. In addition, participating schools will receive a biweekly newsletter, access to special Web-based teaching sites, invitations to attend Foundation regional and national meetings, and opportunities for school personnel to participate in staff development programs. Further, teachers from registered schools will be able to electronically share their favorite lesson plans. As part of the registration process, we asked you to name at least two teachers who will help ensure funders that the Foundation materials will be put to maximum use. Their names will not be published nor made available to commercial list brokers.

Who else in Vermont besides schools has expressed support and/or interest?

We have received letters from the Vermont Department of Education, Vermont Historical Society, Vermont Folklife Center, Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies, University of Vermont, Shelburne Museum, and South Burlington School District. D. Joseph Davison,

who has reviewed our materials relative to the Vermont Standards and Learning Opportunities Framework, has also expressed his support for the project. Copies of those letters are enclosed.

What are the current registrations in Vermont, Nevada and North Dakota?

To date, schools representing nearly 57 percent of Vermont's students, 63 percent of Nevada's students and 78 percent of North Dakota's students are registered for the project. In addition, we recently received a request from Nassau County, Long Island, a large school district in New York, to participate in the pilot. We have already registered schools representing more than 20 percent of its student population following an initial mailing. Registration data by Vermont school district is enclosed.

What does the Foundation need now to proceed?

We have met our thresholds for school registration and have received support from education organizations in all three states. Now we await the designation of a management entity that will receive project funds in Vermont. North Dakota has already satisfied this requirement. Jill Peck and the education department are working hard to create this entity in Vermont. A similar effort is ongoing in Nevada.

When will the project begin?

Once all three pilot states have designated their management entities, the Foundation can officially solicit corporate sponsorship. We have been communicating with that sector for months, laying the groundwork for our official launch. We plan to announce this project to the nation within the next six weeks. As soon as funding is received, we will contact all registered schools to verify their enrollment, mailing address and project teacher names. We will then distribute materials to registered schools based on their enrollment and start posting data on newly created Web sites for Vermont, Nevada and North Dakota. We are very excited to begin this initiative.

I trust that this memo provides the information you requested and look forward to working with you. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (301) 982-5622, ext. 159 or allan@americansall.com, or Jill Peck of the state education department at (802) 828-5129 or jpeck@doe.state.vt.us.

Enclosures

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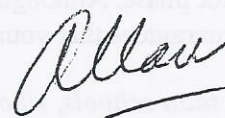
People of America Foundation

To: Vermont School Principals

From: Allan Kullen, People of America Foundation President

Subject: Update on Pilot in Vermont

Date: January 25, 2002



As you know, Vermont is one of three states selected to serve as a national pilot site for a historical investigation and curriculum development project with the People of America Foundation. The response from schools within the state has been excellent. We are ready to proceed and want to ensure that schools still interested in participating have the information they need to do so. This memo answers questions that principals have posed in connection with this project.

What is the project about in a nutshell?

A national Web site will house state databases created through the project. These databases will make local and state history information available to students across the United States. In addition, all information in these databases will link directly to each state's social studies scope and sequence and to its assessment and testing requirements. Schools will also have free, direct access to curriculum and teaching materials used elsewhere in the nation. Increased diversity within the student population requires more comprehensive and inclusive social studies resources. Moreover, an electronic database reinforces students' and teachers' desire to supplement textbook information with Web-based research.

Why are you contacting me, the school principal?

Principals are the key decision-maker within schools. To obtain funding, we need to demonstrate support for the project to potential sponsors. These sponsors are most interested in grassroots support by local schools. This is why we have encouraged principals to signal that support by registering their schools at www.americansall.com. Registering for the project demonstrates that you agree with the project's goals to offer free, high-quality, locally approved, and diversity-based social studies materials as a supplement to existing social studies curriculum materials.

What does registration mean for my school? What are you asking of my teachers?

Project registration is an opportunity, not an obligation, and it costs nothing for your school to participate in the Foundation's initiative. Registration ensures that your school will receive multiple copies of the print materials that complement the state's database and other free, state-approved curriculum and teaching materials. In addition, participating schools will receive a biweekly newsletter, access to special Web-based teaching sites, invitations to attend Foundation regional and national meetings, and opportunities for school personnel to participate in staff development programs. Further, teachers from registered schools will be able to electronically share their favorite lesson plans. As part of the registration process, we ask you to name at least two teachers who will help ensure sponsors that the Foundation materials will be put to maximum use. Their names will not be published nor made available to commercial list brokers.

Can this project help my school, which has children with special needs?

By providing a greater choice of screened and approved curriculum and teaching materials, including text, audio and visual materials, this project can provide more tools to those who teach these students.

Why do I need to take action now?

Our statewide training and materials budget will be based on the number of schools registered during the pilot phase. Although funding to serve additional schools may later become available, registering now guarantees that your students and staff will be first in line to receive project resources.

Other than schools, who else in Vermont has expressed support?

We have received written support from the Vermont Department of Education, Vermont Historical Society, Vermont Folklife Center, Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies, University of Vermont, Shelburne Museum, and South Burlington School District. D. Joseph Davison, who has reviewed our materials relative to the Vermont Standards and Learning Opportunities Framework, has also expressed his support for the project. Copies of those letters are enclosed.

What is the current registration in Vermont?

To date, schools representing nearly 57 percent of Vermont's students are registered for the project. Registration data by school district is enclosed.

What other states are participating in the pilot and what is their progress?

Nevada and North Dakota are the other two pilot sites. To date, schools representing 63 percent of Nevada's students and schools representing 77 percent of North Dakota's students are registered with the Foundation. In addition, we recently received a request from Nassau County, Long Island, a large school district in New York, to participate in the pilot. We have already registered schools representing more than 20 percent of its student population following an initial mailing.

When will the project begin?

Now that we have achieved a registration of more than 50 percent in each of the pilot states and have the internal support we need, we plan to announce this project to the nation within the next six weeks. As soon as funding is received, we will distribute materials to participating schools and begin placing data on the newly created Web site for Vermont.

I trust that this memo provides the information you need and look forward to your participation in this project. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 301/982-5622, ext. 159 or allan@americansall.com, or Jill Peck of the state education department at 802/828-5129 or jpeck@doe.state.vt.us.

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