



**BASIS INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS · CHINA**
Shenzhen, China

**FOUNDING EARLY CHILDHOOD
HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Start Date: July 1, 2022

basis-global.com



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES



Mission

To provide our students with a transformative early childhood and K-12 education. With the cutting-edge BASIS Curriculum, through exceptional teaching and faculty mentoring, we will produce graduates who have the broad intellectual and international perspectives, critical thinking capabilities, and creative problem-solving skills to be leaders in their future world.

Vision

With the purpose and mission stated above in mind, BASIS International Schools · China's entrepreneurial vision is to become the largest and most prestigious international school network in China by 2023.

OVERVIEW

BASIS International Schools · China (BIS·C) is the leading network of American-style international and bilingual schools in China. As of August 2021, there are six schools serving over 6,500 students and employing over 700 expatriate teachers and administrators. BASIS Early Childhood School Shenzhen is set to open in 2023.

BIS·C seeks a dynamic individual to serve as Founding Head of School starting July 1, 2022. The successful candidate will be a highly experienced educational leader in early childhood education who has worked at well-respected schools and will be devoted to the BASIS mission and programs. In a community that reveres learning, the Head of School serves as the community's lead educator and head teacher, responsible for supporting the quality of instruction and learning in the classrooms and sustaining a community culture of faculty collegiality and student responsibility. The Head of School is responsible for the hiring of all teachers. This is an exceptional opportunity for an early childhood leader to build an outstanding international school linked to one of the most successful and dynamic networks of schools in the world.

The Head of School leads the educational life of the school. The Head's work rests on the firm operational and financial foundation of the [Ascend Organization](#). Its deep experience in school openings and business, facility, marketing, and admissions operations is a crucial advantage for all founding heads.



THE SCHOOLS

All schools in the BIS·C network are driven by a deep commitment to fostering a teacher-led culture of professional excellence. They strive to offer their students the experience of an academically elite American independent school.

The Early Childhood School will be for students three to six years of age. Three and four year olds will be immersed in a bilingual Chinese and English environment. Five to six year olds will experience English as the primary language of instruction, with a Chinese assistant in the classroom to support language acquisition.

Revolutionary and world-renowned, the BASIS Curriculum is recognized as blending rigorous worldwide standards with the ingenuity and creativity associated with American education. Three to four year olds experience a child-centered curriculum that is self-directed and experiential in nature and designed to encourage a child's natural curiosity to ask questions. Portfolios and documentation are emphasized to demonstrate a child's progress in learning. Five to six year olds continue with exploratory learning approaches, enhanced by centers, small group and whole group instruction in academic subjects such as reading, writing and math. Kindergarten prepares students for success in primary and secondary school by building a foundation of basic skills, good habits and a love of learning.



The BASIS schools have a reputation for attracting and retaining talented teachers—especially from the United States, Canada, Britain, Ireland, and South Africa—and providing ambitious school leaders with significant professional opportunities.

SHENZHEN, CHINA

Once a small fishing community, over the last 4 decades Shenzhen has catapulted into a global center for technology, research, manufacturing, and transportation home to 12.5 million people. Dubbed China’s “Silicon Valley,” Shenzhen is the country’s most affluent city and is considered the second financial capital in China.

The city is an outdoor enthusiast’s paradise with year-round recreation at popular nearby mountains, hills, beaches, and gardens. As the only city in China that provides three modes of transportations for simultaneous comings and goings, Shenzhen is known as the “Gateway to China,” offering comfortable and quick travel options by air, train, or ship.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The following are opportunities for the Founding Head of School:

- Leading the founding of an early childhood school in China's premier international school market.
- Building on the record of a remarkably strong, academically oriented network of schools with high expectations and a unique program.
- Working with the support and resources of BASIS International Schools, China leadership, the experienced network teacher-recruitment team, and the Ascend organization.
- Being able to focus on the educational program, supported by a sophisticated and highly efficient bilingual operational team.
- Working with a committed faculty in teaching a strong, motivated student body.
- Joining the collaborative senior leadership team of the network to guide rapid, sustainable growth.

Challenges for the Head of School will include:

- Building a shared sense of identity, purpose, values, and vision in the founding faculty and leadership team.
- Ensuring that the high expectations of the BASIS Curriculum are matched by the highest levels of faculty support for students.
- Leading a school that provides the BASIS Curriculum model.
- Establishing an educational culture that meets the needs of the whole child.



DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Experienced and knowledgeable early childhood educator who is the “learning leader” of the school
- Skillful manager who has an active and visible presence in the classrooms and life of the school
- A community builder with a visible, approachable and engaged presence who can instill confidence in parents
- Excellent communication skills, including listening, speaking and writing
- Experience in recruiting, retaining, supporting and developing mission-aligned faculty
- A team builder who encourages and supports collaboration across the school, in pursuit of a shared mission
- Leadership experience that reflect the ability to flexibly manage change and problem-solve

TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates should submit electronically in one email and as separate documents (preferably PDFs) the following materials:

- A thoughtful cover letter expressing their interest in and fit for this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A one-page statement of educational or leadership philosophy and practice;
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each. Those five should include: two trustees or direct supervisors, two colleagues (administrators/teachers), and a parent or student. References will not be contacted until or unless a serious mutual interest is established and not without the candidate's permission.

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