

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in May	Descriptor Term: Foreign Exchange Students	Descriptor Code: 6.502	Issued Date: 07/08/13
		Rescinds: 6.502	Issued: 07/22/04

Any foreign student is eligible for acceptance into the foreign exchange student program, provided s/he is participating through any agency endorsed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel and is sponsored by an individual or organization and has a J-1 visa.¹ Before approval by the Board, the exchange program representative must make written application on behalf of the student in the local school serving the host family. No foreign exchange student shall be brought into the United States by the sponsor unless s/he has been accepted **in writing** as a student by the director of schools/ designee of the school in which s/he is to be enrolled. The school may accept the student after determining the following:

1. The student will have a sufficient command of the English language to enable them to participate in the general curriculum;
2. Appropriate curriculum offerings can be provided for the student; and
3. An overcrowded situation will not be further aggravated.

Prior to enrolling a foreign student, the principal or designee shall require, in addition to a valid student -visa, the following documentation:

1. Citizenship;
2. Birthdate;
3. Health/immigration records;
4. Custody (including phone number, name and address of person responsible for the student); and
5. School records, including a transcript of academics (in English).

Admission requirements and all other considerations and expectations shall be the same for foreign students as for United States students. Students will be accepted only in grades 9-12. No more than five foreign students shall be placed in one school.

Students must have had acceptable academic achievement in their native countries and must have been screened for maturity and ability to get the maximum benefit from an exchange program. Exchange students must have an adequate command of the English language and be able to function without special assistance in regular classes. The principal shall be responsible for assignment to the appropriate grade level.

Each school shall name a faculty member as a student representative to serve as a liaison between the school and exchange program agency and as an advisor to exchange students.

The sponsoring individual/organization shall provide evidence to the school that the student will receive adequate financial support for the duration of his/her stay. Schools shall not hold fund-raising events to pay expenses incurred by exchange students.

Privately sponsored exchange students on an F-1 visa may be enrolled if an adult resident of the district has temporary guardianship and the student lives in the home of that guardian. Exchange students on an F-1 visa are required to pay tuition at the established district rate. F-1 visa student admission is limited to secondary schools and attendance may not exceed twelve (12) months.²

Legal Reference:

1. 22 CFR §62.25
2. Immigration and Nationality Act § 214(3)(m)(1)

Cross Reference:

School Admissions 6.203