



**Peaster ISD**  
**Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Students**

In the Peaster Independent School District, the intent of a foreign exchange program is to provide global students the opportunity to learn about the history of the United States, as well as the working of our government, and to become more fluent in both the written and spoken English language. Students should be encouraged to take an active part in the academic process and experience the social activities of the youth in Peaster ISD.

The following guidelines are provided to assist the foreign exchange organization, the foreign exchange student, and the host family in understanding the expectations of this privilege:

1. Foreign exchange organizations shall meet the requirements of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. Program sponsors are responsible for entering information to register students in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. Students must submit a SEVIS form, DS 2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status as part of the application packet.
2. The local foreign exchange organization representative should contact the Peaster High School Counseling department to complete an application and secure a preliminary approval to place the student at Peaster High School. Applications will be accepted beginning February 1, for consideration to attend the following school year. All required documentation concerning the exchange student should be submitted no later than August 1 prior to the academic year of attendance. Once documentation is received, reviewed, and verified for accuracy, they are forwarded to the Superintendent for final approval.
3. Foreign exchange students are accepted for one calendar year, and will not be approved for a single semester.
4. The foreign exchange student is responsible for providing the month/date/year of all immunizations. Immunization records must be in English and must meet the requirements for Texas High School students. FES students receive an initial preliminary approval pending full immunizations.
5. The foreign exchange student is responsible for providing a copy of the student's high school transcript for the entire year. The transcript must be in English.

7. Any cost for student records required by the foreign exchange program, or country, is the responsibility of the student.
8. Every foreign exchange student is encouraged to be fluent in writing and speaking English.
9. The host family must be a Peaster ISD resident, and the host family must enroll the foreign exchange student. The representative may not handle this procedure. Proof of residency and photo identification is required by the host family when enrolling the student.
10. In order to be considered a full-time student, a foreign exchange student must be enrolled in at least 7 periods, 4 of which must be academic classes.
11. Foreign exchange students are subject to PISD attendance and discipline policies and are expected to participate fully in their classes, including taking tests.
12. Foreign exchange students will be classified at a **level no lower than the 10th grade and no higher than the 11th grade.**
13. Since this is a cultural experience, earning a diploma from Peaster High School is not an option. Foreign exchange students will be required to sign a waiver of their intention to pursue a Texas high school diploma.
14. A foreign exchange student is required to take a STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessment for a course in which he or she is enrolled, and the assessment must be scored.
15. Foreign exchange students will not be placed in the class ranking.
16. Foreign exchange students will not be eligible to receive free or reduced priced meals as part of the exchange program.
17. Coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities will be responsible for obtaining and checking proper credentials for participation in each activity.
18. The representative of the exchange program is expected to maintain continuous contact with its Exchange visitor students, the host family, and the high school. The representative shall initiate action to resolve any problems that may arise with respect to the student's participation in his or her academic program or with respect to the student's relationship with his or her host family.
19. For further information, please see PISD district policy FD(LEGAL) and FDA(LEGAL).
20. When PISD has reached the limit of 5 students in a year, no further requests will be accepted. Termination of placement of one student from a program does not automatically gain placement for a new student from that program. An application for a new student must be completed and will be reviewed in order to receive a receipt of complete applications. The withdrawal of one foreign exchange student does not automatically create an opening for a new placement. Depending on the time of year of withdrawal, a placement may not be advisable even if the five (5) student allowable is not filled.
21. Waiting lists will no longer be maintained to hold a company's or student's request for enrollment. Only completed documentation will be accepted and only if the five-student limit has not been met at the beginning of the school year.
22. Once a student has been accepted as a foreign exchange student at Peaster High School, the host family will complete the NSOE (new student online enrollment) and complete the enrollment process once the student has arrived and resides within the PISD school district boundary.