

Foreign Exchange Students

Definition

The definition of foreign exchange student, for the purpose of this policy, is a student entering the U.S. on a J-1 visa under a program approved by the U.S. State Department.

Applicability

This policy applies to students who reside outside the U.S. and are visiting the country temporarily. Immigrant and migrant students residing in the school district will be handled in accordance with applicable district policy. Residency shall be determined in accordance with the district's residency verification procedure and law.

Program Contact

- Organizations must contact that high school's Building Principal or designee directly.
- All sponsoring organizations must have an area/regional coordinator identified and in regular contact with the school(s). This coordinator will be a resource for the student and the school in addressing academic progress, adjustment issues, and other concerns.

Admission

The District may accept foreign exchange students as defined above. The District will waive tuition for such students whose host families reside within the Fargo Public Schools' boundaries.

The District reserves the right to limit the number of students admitted under this policy. In addition, the Superintendent shall develop application and admission criteria for students governed by this policy.

Once admitted, all students covered by this policy become subject to applicable school district policies and regulations. Students shall be encouraged to participate in all student activities and athletics provided they meet eligibility requirements.

Application/Placement

- Sponsoring organizations must be on the current CSIET list.
- In an effort to increase diversity and reduce monopoly, each sponsoring organization will be allowed one placement per year per building unless the district has closed a building to petitions.
- There are a maximum of two spaces available at each Fargo high school for foreign exchange students (Davies High, North High, and South High). Spaces are filled on a first come/first served basis.
- Students are accepted for one school-year placement only (excluding summer school, night school, and alternative school)
- Applications will be reviewed/accepted by the high school during the school year prior to expected enrollment and prior to July 1. Additional placements will be considered in July if space is available. Sponsoring organizations will be notified of acceptance as early as possible.

- All paperwork must be submitted prior to any decisions being made on acceptance for enrollment. This includes information on the student, sponsoring agency, and host family.
- Only one student per country will be accepted per building.
- Foreign exchange students placed in host families that live within the district boundaries will not be charged tuition.
- It is highly recommended that the host family reside in the area served by the high school where the student applied for placement.

Any requests for exemptions from the application/placement process must be made in writing to the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Enrollment

- Enrollment /registration occurs before the start of the school year.
- Host families need to contact the high school's Foreign Exchange Coordinator to arrange a meeting during which the high school and the student will determine course selections, orientation, etc.
- Foreign exchange students are classified as "seniors" unless otherwise required by their program or home country.
- Minimum course expectations include:
 - Students must be enrolled in at least the minimum course load for seniors as indicated in the district "Instruction" Graduation Requirements Policy AP 4310
 - English 3 (American Literature)
 - U.S. History or American Government/Economics
- Letter grades will be used. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading may be used at the high school's discretion.

English Proficiency

Students must be proficient in English, enabling them to manage a high school American Literature course. No English tutoring or special services will be available. Title III requires schools to offer EL screening and EL services. The foreign exchange student can decline screening and services.

Certificate of Attendance

Official FPS high school diplomas will not be awarded to foreign exchange students.

The students will be granted a Certificate of Attendance if they:

- reach the age of 17 by September 1st of that school year, and
- successfully meet the school district's minimum academic requirements.

If these two requirements are met, students are invited to participate in graduation ceremonies.