

Acceptance of International and Exchange Students

The Cohasset Public Schools openly accept exchange students from various cultures and countries to the district provided that they are qualified academically and possess skills in English sufficient to function in regular classes without special assistance, Applicants should possess an above average academic record, be highly motivated, and socially and emotionally mature. The program is specifically designed for students with clearly defined goals which would be advanced through a year of study in the Cohasset Public Schools. Students entering the Cohasset Public Schools on a student exchange program must be sponsored either by a service organization, student exchange program, or hold an F-1 Student Visa. Students sponsored by a service organization or student exchange program must hold a J-1 Student Visa. Before a J-1 student can be accepted at Cohasset High School, they must show evidence of sponsorship by a U.S. Department of State designated sponsor organization for secondary students as well as provide academic and medical records. The student must also have a host family in the Cohasset Public School District who will provide lodging and support for the individual during their residency as a student in the district,

The Cohasset Public Schools will accept a maximum of four (4) students total on an F-1 or J-1 visa per year, with no more than two of those students in any one grade.

The F-1/J-1 student application for admittance with all supporting documents, as determined by the superintendent, must be submitted no later than April 1 for the enrollment in the coming school year.

Once admitted, all exchange students shall be subject to all District policies and administrative rules and procedures governing students.

Exceptions to the criteria will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Classifications of international students will be those on F-1 and J-1 nonimmigrant student visas.

F-1 Visa students will be defined as persons who have residence in a foreign country to which they plan to return and whose primary purpose for visiting the United States is to study full time at an approved institution. They must be proficient in English and prove that they have the financial resources required for their education and stay in the United States.

Federal restrictions on students who wish to attend public schools on F-1 visas include:

1. Students must be in Grades 9-12.
2. School attendance is limited to a maximum of 12 months.
3. Students (or their sponsor) are required to reimburse the District for the most recent per-pupil cost published by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Proof that such tuition has been paid must be evidenced on the application form (I-20A-B) for the visa. Waivers are not allowed.

J-1 Visa students will be defined as persons who have residence in a foreign country to which they plan to return, and who have been selected to study in the United States by a student exchange program. The program must be approved by the U. S. Department of State as a sponsor and approved by the District, to place students in the Cohasset Public Schools. All exchange programs must be in compliance with the Council on Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) Standards.

Admissions decisions on F-I and J-1 applications will be the responsibility of the Principal of Cohasset High School and will require the approval of the Superintendent. Consideration will be given to class climate, class sizes and course availability. Students will be accepted for one school year only. No semester students will be accepted. Students who have been awarded a diploma or certificate of completion in the student's home country will not be enrolled in the Cohasset Public schools.

Cultural Exchange Students

Students from other countries may participate in short-term cultural exchange visitation programs approved by the Superintendent or designee. Such students will not be enrolled in the school district, will not earn academic credit through the school district and will not be entitled to enroll in the school district after completion of the visitation.

Adopted: January, 2018

Reviewed and Approved: 5/3/2023