

Barbers Hill ISD Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Students

The Barbers Hill ISD foreign exchange program provides students from other countries the opportunity to learn about the history of the United States, the working of our government, and to become more fluent in both the written and spoken English language. Students are encouraged to take an active part in the academic experience and to explore the social and cultural opportunities in BHISD.

The District has applied for a waiver from the Texas Education Agency to limit the number of foreign exchange students at Barbers Hill High School to a maximum of five (5) students per year. Participation is on a first-come/first-serve basis after all the requirements have been met. Waiting lists will not be maintained to hold an agency's or student's request for enrollment.

Sponsoring/Foreign exchange organizations need to keep in mind that a student who has completed the equivalent of his/her home country's high school education, received a diploma or a certificate of graduation, or is considered eligible for college or university placement, is not eligible for the foreign exchange program in Barbers Hill ISD. Falsification of a student record in this regard will result in immediate withdrawal of the student.

The following guidelines have been developed to assist foreign exchange organizations, the foreign exchange students, and the host family in understanding the requirements for application, acceptance, and participation in this program:

1. All sponsoring/foreign exchange organizations shall meet the requirements of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.
2. Any cost for student records required by the sponsoring/foreign exchange organization or home country is the responsibility of the foreign exchange student.
3. Foreign exchange students are accepted for one full instructional calendar year only. No foreign exchange student will be accepted for a single semester.
4. The host family must reside in the Barbers Hill ISD attendance zone. Falsification of a student record is a felony in the state of Texas. Any falsified documents will result in the foreign exchange student being withdrawn immediately from Barbers Hill ISD.
5. The foreign exchange organization is responsible for providing a copy of the student's high school transcript. The transcript must be in English. The foreign exchange student's transcript will be evaluated prior to registering in BHISD to determine courses. The transcript will not be transcribed to reflect courses taken outside of BHISD.
6. The foreign exchange student is responsible for providing the month/date/year of all immunizations. Immunization records must be in English.
7. The approved host family is responsible for enrolling the student. A representative from a foreign exchange organization may not enroll the student.
8. The foreign exchange student must be enrolled in at least six (6) periods – four of which must be academic classes in order to be considered a full-time student in Barbers Hill ISD.
9. Foreign exchange students will be classified as an 11th grade student.

10. Foreign exchange students will not be included in the high school's class ranking or graduation.
11. Foreign exchange students are subject to Barbers Hill ISD attendance and discipline policies and are expected to participate fully in their classes.
12. Foreign exchange students will be at a distinct disadvantage if they do not have adequate skills in written and spoken English.
13. Foreign exchange students are not eligible to receive free or reduced meals as part of the foreign exchange program.
14. Coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities will be responsible for obtaining and evaluating proper credentials to determine a foreign exchange student's eligibility for participation in a UIL activity for which the student expresses interest.
15. If a foreign exchange student is returned to his/her home country or is moved to another district after acceptance into Barbers Hill ISD, the foreign exchange organization will not be allowed to replace the student who has been withdrawn.

Students Holding F-1 Student Visas

Enrolling students with F-1 visas is optional for districts. To enroll students, a district must meet all requirements of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program. Barbers Hill ISD does not hold SEVP Certification and does not enroll students on F-1 visas.