

ADMISSION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes the cultural enrichment derived from welcoming foreign exchange students into the educational program and encourages District participation in a foreign student program.

Only non-immigrant foreign exchange students who possess a valid J-1 visa to study in the United States will be admitted to the District's High School.

The District retains the sole discretion to deny admission to any student not meeting all the requirements set forth in this policy, and may terminate the approval of a foreign exchange student program when the Board believes that it would be in the best interest of the District.

Foreign Exchange Students (J-1 Visa)

The Board encourages District participation in a foreign exchange student program. Foreign exchange students will be admitted to the District's High School for no more than a one-year academic program, pursuant to the following provisions:

1. The District recognizes only those organizations designated as "Exchange-Visitor Programs" by the United States Information Agency, pursuant to federal regulations, as sponsoring organizations for the exchange of students. Any such organization must supply proof of designation prior to recognition.
2. No foreign exchange students subject to this policy shall be brought into the District by a foreign exchange student program unless he/she has been accepted in writing as a student by the High School Principal. Sponsors are responsible for the effective administration of their Exchange Visitor Program. Applications and all required documentation concerning the exchange student must be submitted no later than June 30th prior to the academic year of attendance.
3. A foreign exchange student is not entitled to tuition-free schooling in the school district merely because he or she resides with a family within the district. However, if approved, the foreign exchange student shall attend the Patchogue Medford School District free of charge and will be provided bus transportation to and from school to the same extent District students are provided such transportation,

Admission of Foreign Exchange Students (Continued)

4. In reviewing applications for enrollment, the following factors will be considered:
 - a. whether the student possesses sufficient proficiency in the English language;
 - b. whether the student demonstrates maturity, good character, and scholastic aptitude;
 - c. whether an appropriate program is available;
 - d. whether the student meets the general admission requirements for the school; and
 - e. any additional factors relevant to the student's potential for success in the program.

The District shall supply the foreign exchange students with attendance and academic records. It is the responsibility of the foreign exchange student and the school in his/her home country to determine how the courses taken at the high school apply towards the student's educational program at the home school.

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:

- Foreign exchange students are accepted for one calendar year and will not be approved for a single semester. Admission will only be allowed at the beginning of the school year.
- The District may, annually, accept up to two (2) foreign exchange students.
- On September 1 of the school year of admission to the district, the exchange student must be at least fifteen years of age and less than eighteen years and six months of age.
- The foreign exchange student is responsible for providing proof of required immunizations, in English, prior to attendance.
- Every foreign exchange student must possess sufficient proficiency in English language and demonstrate maturity, good character, and scholastic aptitude.
- The host family must be a resident of the Patchogue-Medford School District.
- Foreign exchange students will be classified at a level no higher than 11th grade.
- No student will be eligible for acceptance who has completed the equivalent of the 12th grade in their home country, has received a diploma or a certificate of graduation, or is considered eligible for college or university placement.
- Foreign exchange students will not be placed in class ranking.
- Foreign exchange students are subject to the District's attendance and discipline policies and are expected to participate fully in their classes, including taking tests.
- All school-related expenses shall be the responsibility of the sponsor, the student, and/or the host family.

Admission of Foreign Exchange Students (Continued)

No Guarantee of Admission

The Board retains the discretion to deny admission to any student not meeting all of the requirements set forth in the Board's policy.

Adopted:
December 16, 2024