



626 SCHOOL ADMISSION FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

I. PURPOSE

The school district affirms the benefits of foreign exchange experiences for students and for the school district in hosting exchange students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the admission of international students is in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and rules.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The board of education endorses the admission of international students when permitted by federal and state laws and rules. Participation of students representing multiple languages and cultures can extend and enrich the learning of all students and promote cross-cultural understanding.

III. SCHOOL ADMISSION FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

A. The school district will accept exchange students from programs properly approved under federal and state laws and rules.

1. The school district may limit the number of exchange students accepted due to student enrollment capacity.

2. When the school district is notified of a potential exchange student, they will notify the high school principal of the student and the agency/exchange program that is working with the student for registration.

3. The potential exchange student must be of an age eligible for Minnesota high school enrollment, and meet all of the following criteria to be admitted to Columbia Heights Public Schools on a tuition basis:

a. The student is a resident of the Columbia Heights Public School district or another Minnesota school district and enrolls in accordance with the Columbia Heights Public School Board Policy 509, Enrollment of Nonresident Students.

b. The student has a J-1 visa and is attending school as part of an approved cultural exchange program.

- c. The student provides evidence of significant English fluency documented in their exchange program application packet.
- d. The student receives all vaccinations required by the Minnesota school immunization law.
- e. The student has not received a high school diploma or the equivalent.
- 4. The student enrolls for a maximum period of one school year; and
- 5. The student's host(s) are designated as guardians.

IV. POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION PROGRAM

- A. Students enrolled in the district under a cultural exchange program are ineligible to participate in the PSEO (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options) Program.

V. PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- A. According to the Minnesota State High School League Rules, students who participate in a recognized foreign exchange program are eligible to compete at all levels of interscholastic competition.

VI. SUPPORT

- A. The principal shall designate an administrator or staff member as the liaison for exchange students.

Legal References: MINN. STAT. § 120A.20 Admission to Public School

Cross References: CHPS Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)