

Admission of Exchange Students

Admission of Foreign Exchange Students on J-1 Visas

The district is interested in increasing international understanding through international education and student exchange programs. To further this interest, the district admits foreign exchange students to the high school under certain conditions. Foreign students who qualify for attendance are generally placed through approved programs or by individual sponsorship. With respect to foreign exchange programs, the following characteristics should exist:

1. Exchange organizations should be approved by the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) as organizations that follow USIA's Criteria for Teenager Exchange Visitor Programs and have been authorized to issue IAP-66 Certificates of Eligibility to permit foreign students to come to the United States on J-1 visas.

Organizations approved by the the district are:

- a. Educational Foundation for Foreign Study; and
- b. World Experience.

Additional organizations meeting the criteria may be approved at the superintendent's discretion.

2. Exchange program should meet criteria prepared by the U.S. Information Agency. The exchange program must provide the required student insurance policy;
3. Exchange program should have well defined and executed administrative practices;
4. Exchange program should be a nonprofit organization, be incorporated and provide a complete financial report upon request;
5. Exchange program should insure that the students it sponsors have a sufficient command of English to allow them to participate in an American high school program without assistance in English;
6. Exchange program is responsible for providing information to the school about the incoming student by June 30. A student will not be accepted beyond this date. This information should include a student's translated transcript, reference letters from his/her teacher, information about the family, and an indication of the student's English proficiency;

7. Exchange program must guarantee that all school fees will be paid by the organization, the host family or the student. Fees at David Douglas High School are:
 - a. Student activity card;
 - b. User fees for extra curricular activities;
 - c. Insurance fees where required for participation;
 - d. Replacement costs of books and materials damaged or lost;
 - e. Equipment costs where necessary when participating in activities.
8. Exchange programs must provide orientation programs in the home and/or receiving country, prior to and following the exchange experience;
9. Exchange organizations must maintain an easily accessible representative, in the Portland area, who can provide counseling to the host family and the exchange student, and who can assist in resolving problems which might arise;
10. Exchange organization representatives must be able to counsel with and support the host family, and transfer or return the student to the home country in case of an emergency or for other reasons;
11. Designated program sponsors are responsible for the selection of Portland host families. Organizational representatives must personally interview each potential host family and visit the home before a family is approved to receive a foreign exchange student; (Telephone interviews are not acceptable.)
12. Exchange organizations shall be able to show evidence of bonding and sufficient insurance to pay claims attendant to illnesses, accident or death of an exchange student, and possible liability of the host family.

School Policies for Foreign Exchange Students on J-1 Visas

The district's philosophy on foreign exchange students is centered on the total experience of the student and not limited to academics only. Students should have the opportunity to learn about the typical American family. Therefore, placement in a good home is essential, and school officials should be consulted before final placement is made.

Foreign exchange students should experience the entire school; its activities, athletics, clubs, and student government. They should gain experiences from the broad community and understanding about all of Oregon. The sponsoring organization and host family should show a willingness to assist in this development of the student.

The district maintains the following policies:

1. Foreign exchange students on J-1 visas will not receive diplomas from the district, but will be granted Certificates of Achievement at the graduation ceremony;
2. Foreign exchange students will receive transcripts as non-graduates;

3. Foreign exchange students will be required to take English III, American History and American Government. All other courses selected may be electives;
4. Students on J-1 visas will not be placed in ESL classes;
5. Foreign exchange students will not be allowed to drive;
6. Foreign exchange students will be allowed to participate in athletics according to Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) regulations;
7. The school maintains final authority for exclusion of a student from our school after review with the host parents and sponsoring organization;
8. Approved exchange programs shall be designated to limit foreign exchange students to a maximum of one full academic year of attendance. In order to qualify for the receipt of credit, the student must be enrolled for a minimum of one semester;
9. The exchange program at the district will allow a maximum of seven foreign exchange students in a school year and no more than two from the same country;
10. Current immunization records must be supplied and all requirements met before a student is accepted;
11. Foreign exchange students are expected to comply with all of the guidelines, rules, and regulations included in the district student handbook as well as the David Douglas School District - Rights and Responsibilities Policy;
12. Foreign exchange students are expected to pursue a full-time course of study;
13. Foreign exchange students must be between the ages of 16 and 18 at the time of enrollment.