

Admission of Foreign Exchange Students

It is Board policy to provide tuition free opportunities for approved exchange programs or official “sister school” arrangements, whereby district students can participate in similar tuition-free study experiences abroad.

Exchange students must meet the regulations and expectations of local students, including the immunization requirements.

A high school diploma may be awarded at regular commencement exercises to all foreign exchange students enrolled as seniors who successfully meet the necessary graduation requirements during the year in which they attend. Students receiving a diploma must offer a transcript, transcribed in English and meet requirements of any graduating senior. A student who chooses to graduate must also take one year of US history as one of their required credits in the social sciences. All other foreign exchange students enrolled as seniors may be awarded an honorary diploma and a certification of attendance.

Exchange students will be encouraged to participate in all student activities and will be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, provided academic requirements and Oregon School Activities Association criteria are met.

The Board also agrees to allow foreign students an opportunity to attend district schools by individual arrangement.

Privately sponsored foreign students on an “F-1” Visa may only attend secondary school and are required to pay tuition at the established district rate. The period of attendance may not exceed one calendar school year.

Exchange students attending district schools on a “J-1” Visa as part of a group-sponsored program are not required to pay tuition.

The district maintains that the following criteria for foreign exchange programs be met:

1. The programs actively recruit, screen and support district students yearly to participate in exchange programs abroad with a corresponding waiver of tuition;
2. Foreign students are recruited to the program in such a way as to ensure selectivity with respect to English language competence and academic ability to ensure that students can effectively participate in the regular programs of the school;
3. Host families are not compensated for hosting students and the local placement coordinator, student counselor, liaison, etc., is not compensated for placing or supporting students;
4. The students are provided an orientation concerning the host cultural and/or receiving country;

5. The organization shall have an active broad based adult support system in the community;
6. Regular contact with the high school shall be maintained. Programs will cooperate in a timely fashion with the high school in providing academic and immunization records, and in providing support for the high school with regards to the student they have placed;
7. The organization shall make provision for support and transfer or return of the student in case of emergencies.

AFS-USA, YFU-USA and Rotary Exchange Programs are approved for placing student's tuition free at district schools due to their long histories of strong local, national and international support in both sending district students abroad and placing foreign students at the high school. Due to the differences in their programs, AFS-USA, YFU-USA and Rotary fully satisfy the foreign exchange needs of the district.

If a program is failing to satisfy the above criteria, their status as an approved program will be revoked. In addition, requests from other programs will be considered and recommendations made to the Board.

Individual Arrangements

A foreign student not sponsored by a Board approved international exchange program meeting the above criteria, may be admitted provided:

1. The student resides with and is sponsored by a family legally residing in the district, i.e., the family is a resident of the district as defined by ORS School Attendance and Boundary Legislation.
2. The sponsoring parents commit to writing full acceptance of responsibility for the student and obtain power of attorney or legal guardianship for the period of time the student will be residing in the district.
3. Foreign students attending the district high school through private sponsorship must obtain an F-1 Visa and prior approval required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Pursuant to federal law, foreign students on an F-1 Visa may only attend the secondary school and are required by law to pay the district's established tuition rate for the period of attendance. The period of attendance may not exceed one academic school year.
4. The student has school academic and English language competence necessary to participate effectively in the regular school program. An indicator for admittance shall be a score of 500 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or satisfactory performance on a test acceptable to the work previously earned will be determined by the principal on the basis of the student's credentials compiled three month prior to consideration for the student admission to the District.

"F-1 Visa" is for a student for up to four years.

"J-1 Visa" is a group sponsored visa, typically for one year.

"M-1 Visa" is a vocational visa.