



AISSD HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY & ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

The Arlington Independent School District will participate in the Foreign Exchange Student Program. The 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.

The following guidelines are provided to assist agencies, students and host families in understanding the AISD foreign exchange program:

I. Foreign Exchange Agency

- a. Each agency must be on the current Advisory List of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). AISD reserves the right to examine any program prior to commitment to participate.
- b. Foreign exchange organizations must be able to bring the student via a J-1 Visa. AISD will **not** issue I-20 forms for a student to obtain an F-1 Visa.
- c. AISD has a limit of five (5) Foreign Exchange students at each High School for the current school year. Each agency is limited to one (1) student per campus.
- d. Placements will be made on a first come, first serve basis. The foreign exchange agency representative will contact the AISD foreign exchange student coordinator after January 1 and prior to June 1 to inquire whether any openings are available at a particular high school, and if so, begin the placement process.
- e. Waiting lists will not be maintained to hold an agency's or student's request for enrollment. Only completed documentation will be accepted.
- f. Foreign exchange students will only be accepted for one calendar year and they must be enrolled before the first day of school. Foreign exchange students will not be approved for a single semester.
- g. If a foreign exchange student is returned to his/her home country or is moved to another district during the school year, no new foreign exchange student will replace the withdrawn student.

II. Host Families

- a. Host families must be residents of the accepting high school's attendance zone. Host families must provide proof of residency at time of enrollment.
- b. An AISD host family must be designated prior to acceptance in AISD. No more than one (1) Foreign Exchange student can be placed with any one host family. Students cannot change host families during the school year.
- c. Exchange students will not be accepted as transfers from other school districts.

III. Foreign Exchange Students

- a. The foreign exchange student must be at least sixteen years old and a Junior at the time they enroll in AISD. AISD does not accept college students.
- b. The foreign exchange student must have been enrolled in high school in his or her home country the semester preceding the exchange. In addition, each student must have at least a B average and sufficient command of the English language.
- c. No exchange student who has completed the equivalent of the 12th grade in his or her home country, has received a diploma or certificate of graduation, or is considered eligible for college or university placement will be eligible to attend an AISD high school.
- d. Student will not receive a Diploma or an academic transcript, nor be included in class ranking.
- e. Foreign exchange students wishing to participate in athletics, fine arts, and other activities/competitions governed by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) must submit to the UIL rules and regulations governing participation.
- f. Foreign exchange students are subject to AISD attendance and discipline regulations and policy. Students must be in attendance at least 90 percent of days each course is offered to receive credit.

Agencies, host families, students, or student families will not contact the prospective high school until the District Foreign Exchange Coordinator gives them permission to do so.

AISD begins processing Foreign Exchange applications in January and does not process applications during the summer. The student must interview with the school counselor by the first week of June before the student is accepted into the program. No Foreign Exchange student shall be brought to the AISD by the sponsor unless he/she has been accepted in writing by AISD prior to the student leaving his/her home country. **No Foreign Exchange student will be accepted after the first day of school deadline.**

For additional information, please contact:

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