

## Admission of Exchange and Foreign Students

### 1. Foreign students sponsored by an organized exchange program

- a. The sponsoring organization or agency will submit a request for admission with appropriate information about the student's past school record to the building administrator prior to the time that a commitment is made to admit the student.
- b. Admission of foreign exchange students without tuition will be subject to the approval of the school administration and the appropriate Area Assistant Superintendent.
- c. The school must provide for a review of the student's records and past performance with sponsors and the host family prior to actual admission of the student in order to ensure the maximum possibility of a successful match.
- d. Students may be denied admission for the following reasons:
  - (1) The student would bring the number of exchange students above the maximum school limit.
  - (2) The sponsoring organization is not on the probationary or approved District list.
  - (3) The student does not meet basic expectations for academic preparation.
  - (4) The student has graduated from a high school program in their native country.
  - (5) The student is below the minimum expected level of English proficiency and given their academic history cannot be expected to catch up or perform minimally in a mainstream classroom.
  - (6) Past behavioral issues indicate the student's inability to live up to expectations for behavior in District schools.
- e. Students denied admission to the District may appeal the denial through the office of the appropriate Area Assistant Superintendent by presenting their appeal in writing.
- f. Foreign students on J-1 visas are not subject to tuition.

### 2. Foreign students sponsored by relatives or friends (F-1 Visa)

Pursuant to federal law, only high school students are eligible for F-1 visas. A student may receive F-1 status for no more than twelve months in a public school system. The student must have reimbursed the District in advance for the full,

unsubsidized cost of educating the student. This amount will be determined annually by the Chief Financial Officer.

Payment of tuition must be in a certified or cashier's check in U.S. currency payable to the District. Should a student not be able to obtain a visa or not attend for some other reason, the tuition will be refunded in full. Should a student attend for less than a full school year, tuition will only be refunded if a true hardship situation is demonstrated.

The private sponsor assumes parental responsibility including financial obligations while the foreign student is in attendance. The sponsor must demonstrate the ability to support the student prior to issuance of the I-20 visa.

### **3. Expectations for foreign students**

- a. Foreign students will pay the same fees as any St. Vrain Valley student is expected to pay.
- b. Students who have difficulty with English will not be placed in any individualized program.
- c. To take part in graduation ceremonies, foreign students must meet the same requirements as all St. Vrain Valley students. Principals will review their transcripts in the same manner and with the same rigor as they would with any transfer student.
- d. Students must be in school for at least one semester.
- e. Students will be expected to comply with all regulations imposed on all St. Vrain Valley students in order to remain in the secondary program.
- f. In order to participate on extracurricular teams, foreign exchange students must meet all the regulations and expectations of the school and of the Colorado High School Activities Association.
- g. Students who do not meet expectations upon conference with the host family may be asked to leave the school program.
- h. Students will be expected to take English and American History as a part of their course of study.

### **4. Evaluation of sponsoring groups**

- a. Before being allowed to place foreign students in St. Vrain Valley schools, organizations must be placed on the District's approved or probationary list.
- b. The organization initially will be placed on the probationary list upon receipt of a written request from the organization and the written recommendation of at least one St. Vrain Valley high school principal.

- c. Following one year on the probationary list, the organization will be moved to the approved list following a positive evaluation and approval by principals at a high school council meeting.
- d. Evaluation issues to be discussed will include:
  - (1) Adequacy of background information on the student
  - (2) Appropriateness of placing the student in an American high school
  - (3) Support given the student during their stay
  - (4) Appropriateness of the family placement
  - (5) Thoroughness of the organization's preparations and investigations
- e. Any approved organization that has not done a good job facilitating a positive experience for the student will be placed back on the probationary list upon the request of one high school principal.
- f. Any approved organization placed on probationary status due to concerns regarding their performance may appeal that status to the Area Assistant Superintendent.

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