

## Hamilton County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually in April	Descriptor Term: <b>Foreign Exchange Students</b>	Descriptor Code: 6.502	Issued Date: 12/16/04
		Rescinded:	Revised: 05/11/23

Any foreign student is eligible for acceptance into the foreign exchange student program, provided she/he is participating through any agency endorsed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel and is sponsored by an individual or organization and has a J-1 visa.<sup>1</sup> Before approval to enroll in a local district school, the exchange program representative must make written application on behalf of the student in the local school serving the host family. No foreign exchange student shall be brought into the United States by the sponsor unless s/he has been accepted in writing as a student by the principal of the school in which she/he is to be enrolled. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring agency to obtain the necessary VISA for entering into the United States. The school shall accept the student after determining the following:

1. The student will have a sufficient command of the English language to enable them to participate in the general curriculum in grades 9-12;
2. Appropriate curriculum offerings can be provided for the student in grades 9-12; and
3. An overcrowded situation will not be further aggravated;
4. The student shall be enrolled by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the school year;
5. There are no more than four (4) foreign exchange students enrolled in the school for that year.
6. Copy of the application received by the sponsoring agency;
7. Proof of host family's residence of Hamilton County.

Prior to enrolling a foreign student, the principal or designee shall require, in addition to a valid student visa, the following documentation:

1. Citizenship;
2. Birthdate; (Must be at least fifteen (15) years of age and must not have obtained eighteen (18) years of age upon enrollment)
3. Health/immigration records;
4. Custody (including phone number, name and address of person responsible for the student); and
5. School records, including a transcript of academics (in English). (The student must not have graduated from high school or its equivalent)

Admission requirements and all other considerations and expectations shall be the same for foreign students as for United States students. (Students may only participate in an exchange program for one (1) school year.)

Students must have had acceptable academic achievement in their native countries and must have been screened for maturity and ability to get the maximum benefit from an exchange program. Exchange students must have an adequate command of the English language and be able to function without special assistance in regular classes.

The principal shall be responsible for assignment to the appropriate grade level.

Each school shall name a faculty member as a student representative to serve as a liaison between the school and exchange program agency and as an advisor to exchange students.

The sponsoring individual/organization shall provide evidence to the school that the student will receive adequate financial support for the duration of his/her stay. Exchange students shall not be eligible for free or reduced-price lunches, nor shall schools hold fund-raising events to pay expenses incurred by exchange students. Foreign exchange student will be responsible for all school fees and expenses.

Privately sponsored exchange students on an F-1 visa may be enrolled if an adult resident of the district has temporary guardianship and the student lives in the home of that guardian. Exchange students on an F-1 visa are required to pay tuition at the established district rate. F-1 visa student admission is limited to secondary schools and attendance may not exceed twelve (12) months.

Organizations or host families or students are subject to having their relationship with the Board terminated due to violations of policy or rules and regulations.

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Legal References:

1. 22 CFR §514.2
2. Immigration and Nationality Act § 214(3)(m)(1)

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Cross References:

School Admissions 6.203