

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT PROGRAM

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The Orange County School System is committed to participating in foreign exchange student programs. This practice is beneficial to both the foreign students and the students enrolled in our schools. The experience broadens cultural understanding for both groups and enhances the relationship between countries of the world.

Foreign Exchange Student Program

The Orange County School System will only accept foreign exchange students through approved programs.

A. Program Approval

All organizations operating foreign student exchange programs must receive approval of the program from the Director of Student Services prior to placing a student in the Orange County School System. Approval will be based on the following criteria:

1. Documentation that the organization has met the standards established by the Council on Standards of International Education Travel (CSIET) and appears in the current Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs.
2. Documentation that the organization has a representative based in Orange County.

Responsibilities of the Approval Program include:

1. Providing the Student Services Office with a copy of the student application packet, which the foreign exchange student agency used to accept the student, by July 31st of the school year in which the student wishes to enroll.
2. Assuming responsibility for all matters associated with living arrangements for the foreign exchange student, such as selecting and orienting the host family involved in the foreign exchange program. Host families shall not be recruited through the Orange County School System.

B. Acceptance of Students

Schools must have adequate student capacity for foreign exchange students without overcrowding their classes. Foreign exchange students seeking enrollment in the Orange County School System must meet the following criteria established by the Student Services Office:

1. Be a participant in a foreign student exchange program approved by the Director of Student Services.
2. Apply for admission to the Orange County School System by July 31st of the year in which the student wishes to enroll; (application to the school system is complete only when it contains a copy of the foreign exchange student's application packet, including the name and address of the host family.)
3. Be eligible for enrollment in grades 11, or 12 and, be between the ages of 16 and 19 years old; and not have graduated from secondary school.
4. Present a valid J-I visa to the Director of Student Services.
5. Have adequate command of the English language to function in a regular classroom. The foreign exchange agency must document the student's English ability as part of the application process. The student may not require special assistance to communicate in English.
6. Present documentation of acceptable academic achievement.

7. Provide the school principal with:
 - a. Insurance documentation (accident and medical coverage.)
 - b. Written permissions to participate in interscholastic athletics, if applicable.
 - c. Results of a recent physical examination and proof of required immunizations.
 - d. A copy of any special rules and requirements contained in the foreign exchange agreement.
 - e. Any other data required by the school or the Orange County School System.

Foreign exchange students will be accepted for a yearlong course of study or a first semester course of study only. No second semester placements will be made.

C. Tuition Waiver

Tuition is waived for all foreign exchange students who enroll into the Orange County School System under these guidelines.

D. Application of Rules and Regulation

Foreign exchange students are subject to all rules and regulations governing other students in the Orange County Schools.

E. Eligibility for Graduation

Foreign exchange students may participate in high school graduation exercises if they are eligible to receive diplomas. To be eligible to receive a diploma, a foreign exchange student must meet all of the state and local requirements for graduation. In an effort to increase the cultural understanding of America, all foreign exchange students must enroll in U.S. History and English III (American Literature).