



Foreign Exchange Students Enrollment & Eligibility Guidelines

The Waxahachie ISD 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. Students are encouraged to take an active part in the academic process and to experience the social culture of youth in the WISD.

Enrollment & Eligibility Guidelines

The following guidelines are provided to assist foreign exchange organizations, foreign exchange students and host families in understanding the district's foreign exchange program.

I. Foreign Exchange Organizations

- a. Foreign exchange organizations shall meet the requirements and be listed ("Listing Status: Full") on the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) approved list of foreign exchange organizations for the school year in which placement is requested. The CSIET approved list may be found at www.csiet.org
- b. Foreign exchange organizations must be able to bring the student via a J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa. WISD will **not** issue I-20 forms for a student to obtain an F-1 Visa.
- c. WISD will limit the number of foreign exchange students to a maximum of five (5) foreign exchange students per high school per year. Foreign exchange students shall not be permitted to enroll in Waxahachie High School of Choice.
- d. Placements will be made on a first come, first served basis. The foreign exchange organization representative will contact the WISD Director of Educational Support & Counseling after March 1 and prior to August 1 to inquire whether any openings are available at a particular high school, and if so, to begin the placement process.
- e. Waiting lists will not be maintained to hold a company'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 on or before the first day of school in the fall semester. 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home country or is moved to another district during the school year, no new foreign exchange student will replace the withdrawn student.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.
- b. Host families must provide proof of residency in the form of a current (within the last 30 days) electric bill, gas bill, water bill, or lease agreement.
- c. A WISD host family must be designated prior to acceptance in WISD. No more than one (1) Foreign Exchange student can be placed with any one host family. Students cannot change host families during the year.
- d. Exchange students will not be accepted a transfer from other school districts.
- e. It is strongly recommended that the host family have a student attending the same high school that the foreign exchange student will attend.

III. Foreign Exchange Students

- a. The foreign exchange student must be between 16 years of age and a Junior at the time of enrollment into WISD.
- 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 a certificate of graduation, or is considered eligible for college or university placement will be eligible to attend a WISD high school.
- d. Foreign exchange students who wish to complete their studies in WISD and meet graduation requirements in Texas, must declare their intent to graduate upon enrollment into WISD.
 1. Once their intent to graduate has been declared, a full transcript evaluation will be conducted by the Director of Educational Support & Counseling.
 2. The student will be classified and given a schedule with the appropriate courses, and classification, thus, becoming like any other WISD student seeking graduation.
- e. Foreign exchange students will not receive a high school diploma or an academic transcript from the WISD. They will, however, receive a certificate of attendance.
- f. Foreign exchange students will be classified as 11th grade. Foreign exchange students may, however, be permitted to participate in senior level (12th grade) events/activities at the discretion of the campus principal or designee.
- g. Foreign Exchange students will take all required 11th grade core classes except for the following: Students will be enrolled in 11th grade US History in the fall semester and 12th grade Government in the spring semester.
- h. Foreign exchange students will not be placed in the class ranking.
- i. Foreign exchange students shall not participate in work-based programs.
- j. 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. Participation is not conveyed with high school placement. Coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities will be responsible for checking and obtaining proper credentials for participation in each activity.
- k. Foreign exchange students are subject to WISD attendance and discipline regulations and policy and are expected to participate fully in their classes. Students must be in attendance at least 90 percent of days each course is offered to receive credit.

For further information, please contact:

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