

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

File: JECBA

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

In order to promote cultural awareness and understanding and to provide diverse experiences to district students, the Vigo County School Corporation shall admit foreign exchange students into its high schools. The Vigo County School Corporation shall accept foreign exchange students who meet the established guidelines for admission to district schools.

The Vigo County School Corporation shall accept exchange students on a J-1 Visa who reside within the school district as participants in group-sponsored exchange programs designated by the United States Information Agency (USIA) and approved by the Indiana State Board of Education. Exchange students on a J-1 Visa shall not be required to pay tuition.

The Board shall accept privately sponsored exchange students on a F-1 Visa for attendance only upon payment of tuition at the established corporation rate. Tuition payments may not be waived. The period of attendance shall not exceed twelve (12) months. The F-1 Visa is a student visa under the administration of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the USIA. The student must have a residence in a foreign country which they do not intend to abandon. Legal guardianship of a student on an F-1 Visa must be provided to the principal or designee of the high school.

The school principal has the right to limit the number of foreign exchange students admitted to the school as well as be responsible for determining the visa status and eligibility of students applying for admission.

All potential organizations or individuals applying for admission shall forward the request in writing to the school principal by June 1 preceding the school year of expected attendance.

Admission of foreign exchange students shall be subject to the following guidelines:

1. Students shall be at least sixteen (16) years of age but not more than eighteen and one-half (18 and 1/2) years at the time of initial school enrollment and shall be sufficiently fluent in English. The corporation retains the right to test the student's proficiency in English.
2. Students will be considered for admittance on a space-available basis. Sponsors must secure prior written acceptance for the enrollment of the student from the school principal. Written arrangements concerning the payment of tuition for students other than those with a J-1 Visa must also be provided to the school.
3. Resident host families shall submit a statement accepting responsibility for the student and verifying they are serving as a volunteer host without personal profit. The statement shall also specify that if a change in the host family is necessary that the high school administration will be notified immediately.

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4. Students shall be encouraged to participate in all student activities and athletics provided all eligibility criteria are met.
5. In most cases, foreign exchange students will be registered as seniors and take normal senior classes. Special emphasis will also be given to junior English, American Literature, and U.S. History. Grades will be given and the performance expectations are the same as for any other students. A certificate of attendance will be given to foreign exchange students registered as underclassmen. The students will be permitted to participate in graduation exercises. A record of the academic course of study will be completed and issued with the certificate or diploma.
6. Students shall comply with all immunization requirements for students and must be received by the school before the student attends class.
7. Once admitted, all students shall be subject to all corporation policies and regulations governing students.

Adoption Date: July 12, 2000

Legal Ref: I.C. 20-8.1-6.1-6(b)

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