

Sparta Area School District

Article 413 - Foreign Exchange Student Policy

The primary purpose of the foreign exchange student program is to improve the visiting student's knowledge of American culture and language through active participation in family, school and community life. A secondary purpose is to improve district students' knowledge of a foreign culture.

A Foreign Exchange Student is defined as a student who at the time of enrollment is between 15 and 20 years of age, is not a citizen of the United States, and whose intention it is to return to his or her native country at the completion of the current school year. Foreign students who will be staying with relatives within the Sparta Area School District are not included in this definition.

Prior to consideration for admission, the school district shall be provided with the following information:

1. An official transcript from the student's most recent educational institution
2. A recent health certification from a medical doctor, which shall include a personal health history and immunization record. This must include appropriate and current immunizations.
3. A personal data sheet
4. Proof of health and accident insurance (personal or sponsoring organization)
5. Assurance that the hosting family is accepting the student voluntarily and is not receiving remuneration from either the natural parents or the exchange group
6. Other information of a reasonable nature requested by the administration

All of the above documents shall be provided in English.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Admission shall be limited to students participating in non-profit exchange programs which are operated in accordance with the guidelines issued by the United States Information Agency and whose compliance with those guidelines has been verified by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. Such organizations shall be structured so as to provide adequate local support for their students in a timely manner as deemed appropriate by the administration.

To be enrolled, students must present a J-1 Visa with passport.

The student must reside with a district resident.

The number of Foreign Exchange Students may be limited to five students. In order to foster the educational benefits of district students, no more than two students, per year, will be allowed from each individual country. Priority will be given to students from exchange programs with which the school has had previous favorable experiences.

