

612 STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Eden Valley-Watkins School District accepts foreign exchange students through an approved program. The number of available slots for exchange students is three, and is based upon our projected student enrollment, classroom space, and facility tolerance.

All organizations and operating programs must receive approval from the high school principal prior to placing an individual student within the district. Approval and acceptance will be based upon criteria established by district administration and school board policy. The school and district reserves the right to work with exchange organizations that have successfully demonstrated a commitment and responsiveness to a quality experience for the pupil and the school district.

II. TIMELINE AND APPROVAL

- A. Contact the high school principal prior to June 1 indicating an interest in placing an exchange student.
- B. If approved, provide the principal with a written notice of the intent to place by July 1.
- C. Receive enrollment authorization for placement prior to contacting potential host families.
- D. Personally interview and screen all potential host families, matching student with family interests and personalities.
- E. Submit student and host family applications by August 1 of the year in which the person wishes to enroll (Application to EV-W is formalized by the receipt of a copy of the foreign exchange student's allocation packet, including name and address of the host family.)

III. ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

- A. Must be eligible for enrollment, between the ages of 16-18 years old and six months of age by August 31 of the school year of enrollment, and not have graduated from high school in another country.
- B. Possess a J-1 visa.

- C. Have adequate command of the English language to function in a regular classroom. The foreign exchange program must document the individual's English ability as part of the application process. No special assistance will be provided in English.
- D. Present documentation of acceptable academic achievement.
- E. Provide:
 - i. insurance documentation (accident and medical coverage that meets or exceeds state guidelines);
 - ii. written permission from the foreign exchange program to participate in interscholastic athletics, if applicable.
 - iii. results of a recent physical examination and proof of required immunizations.
 - iv. a copy of any special rules and requirements contained in the foreign exchange agreement.
 - v. Any other data required by the Eden Valley-Watkins Schools.

IV. SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS FOR EXCHANGE STUDENT

- A. Each exchange pupil must be qualified to participate in regular classes and maintain a typical schedule – this means an acceptable level of proficiency in the English language, a commitment to treat coursework as important, and the social skills to enjoy participation in social and extracurricular activities.
- B. EV-W appreciates the difficulty of a person's transition into a different language/culture/institution; however, exchange students are expected to attain average to above average grades.
- C. As with all youth, exchange students are subject to district-wide and school standards of behavior and discipline.
- D. Exchange students must be aware that participating in interscholastic athletic teams means they must comply with district and state athletic eligibility regulations and that many teams require try outs.
- E. Enrollment eligibility will be for one year only.
- F. At the conclusion of the school year, persons will be granted a certificate of attendance and not a diploma.