

Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Student (J-1) Registration (Reference AS66)

(Please read ALL guidelines thoroughly)

All foreign exchange students must be approved for enrollment through the Planning and Student Services Department prior to a student's departure from their native country and registration at a local school. The student's grade placement will be according to Utah State age guidelines. **Foreign exchange students who have previously graduated from high school or equivalent, or whose class has graduated, will not be eligible for enrollment.**

The Jordan School District Board of Education establishes quotas regarding the number of foreign students a high school may accept. This quota is set at twelve (12) students per high school and may be changed from year to year as determined by the Board. A cap on the number of foreign exchange students the district may accept is set by the Utah State Office of Education annually. When the cap on foreign exchange students has been reached, the district may accept one-for-one exchange students who use the same exchange agency and are attending each other's school for one year or less.

The State Board of Education and Jordan School District expects all foreign exchange students to be proficient and fluent in the English language as measured by an ELTIS test score of 212 or higher. If the foreign exchange student is having difficulty speaking or understand the English language the placement agency is required to provide help for the student. A foreign exchange student is not eligible to receive or participate in ESL services.

Foreign Exchange Students (J-1 Status)

A J-1 foreign exchange student is a foreign national secondary student who has entered the United States for up to **ONE YEAR** for a cultural and educational experience and whose placement is approved by the exchange program with a Utah family, which serves as the host family during the period of sponsorship. These students are issued a J-1 visa by immigration.

There is no tuition required for a J-1 foreign exchange student to attend a Jordan School District school. However, foreign exchange students are required to pay school registration fees at the local school (approximately \$250.00) in addition to other fees for any activities they choose to engage in.

Foreign Exchange (J-1) Student Agency Guidelines

- Only agencies approved by the *Council on Standards in International Educational Travel* (www.CSIET.org) can provide this service to parents seeking to send their 9th-12th grade foreign exchange student to a Utah public school.
- Per State Statute and Board Rule ([R277-612-4](#)), Jordan School District requires every foreign exchange student agency to maintain a sworn affidavit of compliance.
- Background checks must be completed by every adult living in the home. (We do not accept students coming to a Welcome Family program.)
- Foreign exchange students must read and sign a Jordan School District "Student Agreement" form (attached).
- Foreign exchange students will not receive a high school diploma and do not participate in graduation ceremonies; however, principals are encouraged to recognize them.
- Foreign exchange students cannot participate in Driver's Education class, as indicated and agreed to on the "Student Agreement" form by both parent(s) and student(s).
- During the school year some students may change host families and schools. **A student who changes families will need to have the approval of the representative of the agency that sponsors them AND approval from the Planning and Enrollment Department.**
- Every foreign exchange student must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA with no more than one (1) F per quarter. If the student falls below a 2.0 GPA, the placing agency must provide tutoring for the student at the placement agency's expense.
- International students interested in participating in any sport will be processed for eligibility according to the Transfer Rule (see Utah High School Athletic Association Handbook, Interpretations and Guidelines #8-K).
<https://www.uhsaa.org/forms/TryoutChecklist>