International Student J-1 & F-1 Visa Guidelines and Application Procedures for MCCSC

The high schools in the Corporation shall use the following protocols in accepting a student as part of a student foreign exchange program.

Selection Process (J-1 & F-1 Visas)
1. The Corporation accepts secondary school students entering United States from other nations via sponsoring organizations recognized and approved by the United States Department of State as an exchange visitor program sponsor (J-1 Visa). The Corporation also accepts secondary school students planning to attend school while staying with a host family they have arranged independently (F-1 Visa).
2. The number of exchange students to be accepted will be determined by the Superintendent or designee based on the total enrollment at the high schools.
3. At the time of enrollment, the exchange student must be at least fifteen (15) years of age but under nineteen (19) years of age.
4. Applications are reviewed and approved by the high school principal or designee. Final approval is determined by the MCCSC Director of Student Services.
5. The sponsoring student exchange program (J-1 Visa) or student/family (F-1 Visa) must provide the school with a complete student application and original transcript of student’s high school grades, with English translation.
6. The request for exchange student acceptance must be received prior to June 1st preceding the school year for which admission is sought. Attendance for the full academic year is expected.
7. The exchange student is required to have sufficient English proficiency. The Corporation determines, by an evaluation of the student’s qualifications, whether the student has sufficient scholastic preparation to enable the student to undertake a full course of study.
8. Exchange student enrollment eligibility will be for one-year only.
9. The sponsoring student exchange program (J-1 Visa) or family (F-1 Visa) must arrange host family placements before exchange students leave their home country. Exchange students are expected to be in their host family and school placements by the first day of classes.

Expectations for Exchange Program (J-1 Visa)
1. The sponsoring student exchange program must be listed as fully approved in the most current CSIET Advisory List.
2. Arrangements between the sponsoring organization, the student’s parents, and the student must clearly delineate the sponsoring organization’s rules as well as costs and refund policies and must be submitted to the Corporation at the time of enrollment.
3. The sponsoring organization is responsible for the selection of the host family and documents, prior to enrollment that a host family has been established.

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4. All immigration papers must be in order.
5. The principal/designee shall send written acceptance of the student to the sponsoring organization and the student by the date agreed upon by the sponsor and the Corporation.

**Expectations for Exchange Students (J-1 & F-1 Visas)**
1. The exchange student, while attending school in the Corporation, must reside with a host family whose residence is within the Corporation.
2. Exchange students must meet the regulations and expectations of local students, including immunization requirements. [Indiana Required Immunizations](#)
3. Exchange students and host families must agree to abide by the policies and regulations of the Corporation and the high school they are attending.
4. Exchange students are expected to have medical and accident insurance that meets or exceeds U.S. Department of State guidelines.
5. Exchange students must check before enrolling in MCCSC for availability of any specific course work required by their home country.
6. Students must plan to enroll for a full school year.

**School Responsibilities (J-1 & F-1 Visas)**
1. Exchange students are not responsible for tuition if sponsored under an approved exchange program while temporarily residing in the Corporation with a host family. (J-1 Visa) Public schools must charge full tuition for students attending on an F-1 Visa.
2. Exchange students are encouraged to participate in all student activities.
3. Students with a J-1 Visa may participate in Junior Varsity and/or Varsity Athletics. Students with an F-1 Visa may participate in Junior Varsity athletics and may NOT participate in Varsity Athletics.
4. Exchange students will be awarded a Certificate of Attendance upon satisfactory completion of an academic year upon request.
5. The high school principal designates a member of the faculty or administration as the student’s advisor during his/her stay. The advisor serves as the liaison between the school and host family, school and sponsoring student exchange program, student and student body, and the school and community.

**F-1 Visa/I-20 Application & Procedures**
# J-1 Visa or F-1 Visa

**Two Options for High School International Students to Study in the United States**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>J-1 Visa</th>
<th>F-1 Visa</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose of Program</strong></td>
<td>Focus is cultural experience</td>
<td>Focus is academic, often there is a post-secondary goal to attend a college/university in the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Age Limit</strong></td>
<td>15-18.5 years old</td>
<td>No age limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Schools may accept any student through an exchange program agency</td>
<td>School corporation must complete an application and fulfill Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Certification before accepting F-1 Visa students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration of Stay</strong></td>
<td>Must attend for one full school year, but may not attend for more than one school year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition Requirement</strong></td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Student pays full tuition costs ($8,250) required by U.S. DHS/ICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student is counted on ADM</td>
<td>Student is NOT counted on ADM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Visa Application Form</strong></td>
<td>DS-2019: Issued by exchange program agency</td>
<td>I-20: Issued by a certified Designated School Official (DSO) (Becky Rose)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host Family</strong></td>
<td>Volunteers with exchange program agency</td>
<td>Student may arrange host family independently (often family/friend) OR utilize an agency that assists with F-1 Visa students and securing host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agency matches students with host families</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Request for Enrollment</strong></td>
<td>Initiated by program agency</td>
<td>Initiated by student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Request made directly to high school and approved/denied by high school administrator</td>
<td>Request made directly to DSO and approved/denied by high school administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade Level Placement</strong></td>
<td>Grade level placement will be at the discretion of the building principal or designee and will be based upon English proficiency, academic record, and age of the student</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Athletics Participation</strong></td>
<td>May participate in Junior Varsity and/or Varsity Athletics</td>
<td>May participate in Junior Varsity, may NOT participate in Varsity Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immunizations</strong></td>
<td>Indiana State law requires students to be immunized against Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Tetanus, Varicella, Polio, Meningococcal, Measles, Mumps and Rubella. All international students desiring entrance into the Monroe County Community School Corporation must furnish documentation of these immunizations before the INS I-20A-B form can be issued. For more information, visit <a href="#">Indiana Required &amp; Recommended School Immunizations</a>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COVID Guidelines</strong></td>
<td>Students must follow all current guidelines from their country of origin regarding testing, vaccinations, and travel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guidelines</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">Guidelines &amp; application procedures</a></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Who Should You Contact?

Is the student working with an agency?

**YES**
Agency discusses the student with the school.

Principal/Designee reviews the student’s information and makes a recommendation.

Principal/Designee reports decision to Director of Student Services for final decision approval.

**NO**
Student/family reaches out to Director of Student Services and is provided contact information for high school.

Principal/Designee reviews the student’s information and makes a recommendation.

Principal/Designee reports decision to Director of Student Services who confirms paperwork is accurate and provides final decision approval.

**Director of Student Services:**
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