

ADMISSION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes the cultural enrichment derived from welcoming non-immigrant foreign students into the educational program. Thus, the board encourages the attendance of non-immigrant foreign students in the district's high school.

Only non-immigrant foreign students who possess a valid J-1 or F-1 visa to study in the United States will be admitted to the district's high school. The Board retains the sole discretion to deny admission to any student not meeting all the requirements set forth in this policy and regulation. All school-aged immigrant children who have abandoned their residence in a foreign country and established residence in the district will be admitted to the district's school without payment of tuition.

Foreign Exchange Students (J-1 Visa) The Board encourages district participation in a foreign exchange student program. Foreign exchange students will be admitted to the district high school for a one-year academic program under the provisions set forth in this policy and regulation.

1. The district recognizes only those organizations designated as "Exchange- Visitor Programs" by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security pursuant to federal regulations, as sponsoring organizations for the exchange of students. Any such organization must supply proof of designation prior to recognition. The Board may terminate any approval of an international exchange student program sponsoring foreign students, when it would be in the best interests of the district to do so.
2. No foreign exchange students subject to this policy and regulation shall be brought into the district by a foreign exchange student program unless he or she has been accepted in writing as a student by the Superintendent subject to the limitations of this policy.
3. Foreign exchange students who have been accepted by the Superintendent and residing in the district, will be provided bus transportation to and from school free of charge. When a foreign exchange student is accepted for admission pursuant to this policy and regulation; the letter of acceptance shall include a statement that tuition shall be waived for the student.
4. The Board of Education by its July annual organizational meeting and upon recommendation from the Superintendent will determine the total number of foreign exchange students to be enrolled in September of that year. The Board may limit or increase the total number of foreign students enrolled in any given year; when such enrollment or limitations would be in the best interests of the district to do so.

High School Program for F1 Visa Students

The Town of Webb Union Free School District is certified by the Department of Homeland Security's Student Exchange Visitor Program to issue *certificates of eligibility* (I-20 forms) to non-immigrant students applying to our school. The Superintendent is the authorized Designating School Official and federal laws and regulation require the superintendent to meet the reporting requirements of the Student & Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

Program Overview

The program is open to applicants in grades 9-12 for one academic year upon the payment of tuition under the terms and conditions adopted by the Board of Education contained in this policy and regulation. No F-1 students will be admitted into grades K-8 and to be eligible students must be between ages 14 through 18 ½ prior to the start of the school year and must be enrolled in and participate in the districts foreign student orientation program; held in August prior to the beginning of each school year. The Superintendent may permit ½ year students in the first semester only. In rare instances; the Superintendent may make other provisions to a student who cannot attend the August mandatory orientation program.

Board of Education Approval

Before January of each school year, the Superintendent will provide the Board of Education with a list of sponsoring agencies. The board will establish the tuition amount for the coming school year. The board will set a suggested boarding reimbursement fee for the school year which will be paid to local host guardian(s) by the student or sponsoring organization and set the total number international students which may be enrolled in the coming year.

Tuition and Board Fees

The amount of tuition charged must cover the actual cost of providing educational services to the student. The tuition amounts collected shall be deposited into the general fund as revenue. At no time can the tuition charge exceed the full unsubsidized per capita cost of providing educational services. Records of these costs must be maintained and kept on file in the business office. The District Treasurer is authorized to invest and distribute boarding fees to local host guardian(s).

Termination of Enrollment

The school district is the legal visa sponsor for the student and the Superintendent as the Designating School Official has the expressed authority to terminate the enrollment of any foreign student who's enrollment does not continue to be "in the best interest of the school district or community." Any violations of school rules, including, but not limited to, excessive tardiness, truancy or other infractions that would result in the suspension of a resident student from school, shall constitute a basis for the foreign student's immediate dismissal. The Superintendent will develop regulations and procedures for termination. Such regulations will be approved by the Board as part of this policy.

Issuance of I-20 Certificate of Eligibility and Admissions

After the receipt of tuition funds; the Superintendent may issue I-20 forms only to F1 visa students who meet admission criteria established by this policy. Prior to enrollment the following documentation must be received by the district office:

- Application for enrollment within a designated cut-off date (the F1 form needs to be developed by the Superintendent).
- Proof of health insurance (minimum requirements set by policy) from a US insurance underwriter.
- Proof of up to date immunization records.
- Medical history and proof of a recent complete health physical
- Academic records for grade entrance determination.
- Letters of recommendation from teacher and school administration officials residing in their home country.

Student Selection Criteria

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the admission of F1 academic high school students which will include but not be limited to: terms and conditions contained in this policy, a minimum English language proficiency test score, academic grade requirements, grade placement, extra-curricular interests, participation in graduation, enrollment limitations of students speaking the same language – allowing for multiple countries of origin but limiting the number of students from one country. Such regulation will be approved by the board as part of this policy.

Mandatory Orientation Program and Continued Support

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a program of orientation and continued support for foreign students and provide the students with the opportunities to meet our teacher, staff and student representatives, and help to prepare the foreign students for living in the United States and attending TOW UFSD throughout the school year.

Extra Academic Classes, Electives courses and other program offerings

The tuition fees established by the Board for F1 high school students are for the actual cost of providing education and does not include costs associated with elective course offerings, alternate academic classes and excursions, dual enrollment classes, travel credit courses, independent study or BOCES programming. These programs are often subsidized by the district for resident students. Students eligible to participate in electives must pay for those courses. Tuition includes the cost of classroom curricular field trips, but students may be required to pay a portion of such trips.

Transportation

F1 academic high school students who reside in the school district with a local host guardian(s) will be provided transportation to and from school pursuant to district policy. For students enrolled but residing out-side of the district; transportation will be provided to and from school, if and only if existing bus routing is used, and there is sufficient room on the bus.

Reporting

In September of each school year the Superintendent will provide the Board a report detailing the admission of F1 high school students for the school year.

APPROVED: BOARD OF EDUCATION June 2, 2015

Revised: January 22, 2019