

Dickinson ISD

Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Students

In the Dickinson Independent School District, the intent of a foreign exchange program is to provide these students the opportunity to learn about the history of the United States, as well as the working of our government, and to become more fluent in both the written and spoken English language. Students should be encouraged to take an active part in the academic process and experience the social activities of the youth in Dickinson ISD. Due to the growth in Dickinson ISD, the District has a TEA waiver to allow 5 foreign exchange students each year. Participation will be on a first come/first-serve basis.

The following guidelines are provided to assist the foreign exchange organization, the foreign exchange student, and the host family in understanding the expectations of this privilege:

1. Foreign exchange organizations shall meet the requirements of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. Program sponsors are responsible for entering information to register students in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. Students must submit a SEVIS form, DS 2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status as part of the application packet.
2. The local foreign exchange organization representative should contact the Assistant Superintendent for Administration to complete an application and secure approval to place the student at Dickinson High School. All required documentation concerning the exchange student should be submitted no later than July 15 prior to the academic year of attendance.
3. If a foreign exchange student is returned to his/her country or is moved to another district, no new foreign exchange student will replace the student withdrawn.
4. Foreign exchange students are accepted for one calendar year, and will not be approved for a single semester.
5. The foreign exchange student is responsible for providing the month/date/year of all immunizations. Immunization records must be in English.
6. The foreign exchange organization is responsible for providing a copy of the student's high school transcript for the entire year. The transcript must be in English.
7. Any cost for student records required by the foreign exchange program, or country, is the responsibility of the student.
8. Every foreign exchange student is encouraged to be fluent in writing and speaking English, but will not be denied enrollment if they have limited skills.
9. The host family must be a Dickinson ISD resident, and the host family must enroll the foreign exchange student. The area representative may not handle this procedure.
10. In order to be considered a full-time student, a foreign exchange student must be enrolled in at least five periods four of which must be academic classes.
11. Foreign exchange students are subject to DISD attendance and discipline policies and are expected to participate fully in their classes, including taking of tests.
12. Foreign exchange students will be classified at a **level no lower than the 10th grade and no higher than the 11th grade** because of the difficulty in interpreting course description equivalencies from schools outside the United States.
13. Since this is a cultural experience, earning a diploma from Dickinson High School is not an option. Foreign exchange students will be required to sign a waiver of their intention to pursue a Texas high school diploma. The waiver exempts them from state testing requirements.
14. Foreign exchange students will not be placed in the class ranking.
15. Foreign exchange students will not be eligible to receive free or reduced price meals as part of the exchange program.

16. Coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities will be responsible for obtaining and checking proper credentials for participation in each activity.
17. The representative of the exchange program is expected to maintain continuous contact with its Exchange-Visitor students, the host family, and the high school. The representative shall initiate action to resolve any problems that may arise with respect to the student's participation in his or her academic program or with respect to the student's relationship with his or her host family.

For additional information, please see the Foreign Exchange Students FAQ document from the Texas Education Agency.