



April 2024

Dear High School Administrator,

The past few years have challenged us to think about how we educate our students in new and different ways. As you look to the 2024-2025 school year, we ask you to continue your important partnership with the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and its [certified international student exchange organizations](#) to prioritize global understanding in your school and local community.

Youth exchange is one of the most powerful mechanisms we have for engendering peaceful relationships. Your commitment to this mission is vital. Enrolling an exchange student promotes cultural awareness, mutual understanding, and appreciation among students, fostering a more inclusive and globally-minded school environment.

Foreign exchange students bring unique perspectives and experiences to classroom discussions, projects, and extracurricular activities. Their presence can enrich the academic environment and stimulate intellectual curiosity among students and teachers alike. Not only do these students return home with positive views of the United States, but by studying and participating in school activities alongside your students, they help broaden the world view of your entire community.

The U.S. Department of State and the Department of Education have voiced their support of high school exchange programs in [this joint letter](#). We appreciate your cooperation in accepting these exchange students in the coming year. BridgeUSA Exchange students are keenly interested in spending an academic semester or year in the USA.

In 2024, [63 CSIET-certified J-1 organizations](#) continue to welcome and integrate thousands of students into school communities like yours. Attached to this letter is a list of frequently asked questions regarding expectations for schools accepting exchange students. If you have specific questions about the operational plans and best practices of the organization you work with, we encourage you to reach out to them directly.

Thank you for welcoming exchange students into your community. We appreciate all that you do to educate our youth and make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Christopher Page  
CSIET Executive Director

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