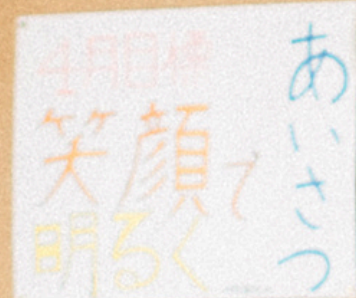


COUNCIL ON STANDARDS FOR
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL



2024

MODEL SCHOOL
PRACTICES

(F-1) International
Student Programs



Created by high school and organization members of CSIET, Spring 2024.
To review current CSIET Standards visit: www.csiet.org.



PURPOSE

The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), in partnership with the secondary-school community, has developed new *Model School Practices* to assist American schools with the implementation and administration of successful international student programs. CSIET's Model School Practices were developed with valuable input from high school administrators, international student program managers, and national advocates for international student programs. These guiding principles seek to provide a foundation for the development of local school policies.



INTRODUCTION

Today, more than ever before, we are experiencing challenges on a global scale. As educators and humanitarians, we must work together to overcome global divisions and fear. Sometimes these challenges take more from us than we can bear, and ask more of us than we can provide. Yet amidst the turmoil, we continue to find ways to stay connected. One of the best ways to stay engaged and connected on a global scale is international student programs. What better way for the youth of today to meet the global challenges of tomorrow than building bridges of cross-cultural understanding!



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CSIET, with input from the secondary school international student exchange community believes the following:

Students who participate in international student exchange are called upon to demonstrate growth and maturity. They think critically about other cultures and their own. Whether hosting an exchange student or participating in a program of study abroad, those students who engage in Youth Exchange attain a 21st century skill set that includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Improved communication
- Improved problem solving capability
- Greater knowledge and awareness of other cultures, traditions and customs
- Improved sense of self and purpose
- Greater capacity to engage in shared projects
- Improved critical thinking

International student programs provide students with a cultural experience through which they develop a balanced understanding of the United States and their own cultures. These programs encourage new perspectives for your own students that open their minds to the world. International student programs help internationalize American high schools. Thank you for your support of these life changing public diplomacy programs. We hope that CSIET's Model School Practices for F-1 International Student Programs will aid in your effort to mold our next generation of world leaders.





COLLABORATION WITH F-1 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

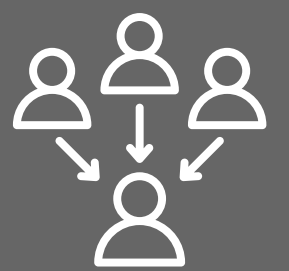
As a school leader, you must be able to depend upon the professional support of the F-1 organizations with which you work in order to ensure the greatest possible success for having an international student program in your school. You reserve the right to work with an International Student Program that has proven their commitment and responsiveness. You also reserve the right of final approval for all student placements.

SCHOOLS SHOULD EXPECT F-1 ORGANIZATIONS TO:

1. Be certified by CSIET and listed in the most current CSIET Advisory List (for the current list visit <https://www.csiet.org/f1-advisory-list/>).



2. Maintain a network of qualified and trained local representatives living in or near the communities they serve.



3. Interview in-person and screen all potential host families, matching student and family interests and provide orientation and ongoing support for both the host family and student.



4. Screen and prepare international students, and monitor student progress during the school year, responding to issues or problems as they develop.

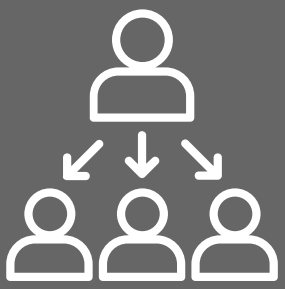




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5. Ensure that international students are compliant with your school's health requirements, including documentation of required immunizations and following other such guidance that your school provides.



6. Provide robust local representative and national office communication with you and responsiveness to your needs.



7. Receive your enrollment authorization for placements each year and follow your policy on timing and requirements,



8. Arrange host family placements and secure school enrollment authorization before international students leave their home countries.





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9. Personally interview and screen all potential host families, matching student and family interests and personalities.



10. Recruit students for academic purposes only



11. Not knowingly place international students based on their athletic abilities,



12. Make arrangements for tutoring/ESL help in the event that it is needed and ensure that the student accepts financial responsibility for it.





Acceptance of International Students

Tuition and Expenses:

International students are required to pay normal school fees, including standard course and extra-curricular activity fees. The school has no obligation to provide any special services, tutoring, supplies, or equipment.

Private School: F-1 students are prepared to pay tuition through their CSIET certified international student exchange program. Schools may take into consideration a reduced tuition to make their course of study more accessible to a variety of international students.

Public School: F-1 students are required to pay tuition at the unsubsidized per-capita rate of what it costs to educate a student in the given state.



Number of F-1 International Students

Model Schools set an international student enrollment goal of up to 10% of the total student body (in a private school) while acknowledging that conditions vary locally and this may impact your ultimate enrollment numbers.



*Additional Guidance:

- Acceptance of F-1 students does not preclude the enrollment of J-1 students, provided your school is accredited.
- I-20 certified schools, both public and private, should strive to accept a diverse population of international students from a variety of countries and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Timing of Placement Process

Acknowledging the ongoing challenge of securing Host Family commitments, Model Schools set requirements that provide the flexibility necessary to maximize the enrollment of international students.

You can expect F-1 Programs to:

- Notify you as soon as students are paired with host families.
- Submit Student applications and Host Family information as early as possible.
- Submit a completed student application, provide all translated transcripts and all required immunizations.



Applications

You can expect F-1 organizations to provide your school with a complete student application, which includes the following:

- personal letter from the student,
- detailed information on student and natural family,
- proof that the student has sufficient language ability to function in an American classroom,
- original transcript of student's high school grades, with English translation, and
- necessary medical history, including proof of immunization as required by the school/school district, any medical/physical restrictions and a recent physical exam.
- Proof of adequate funding for tuition payment(s).



Acceptance Eligibility

- Each international student must be qualified to participate in regular classes and maintain a typical schedule - this means an acceptable level of proficiency in the English language, a commitment to treat coursework as important, and the social skills to enjoy participation in social and extracurricular activities.
- International students must be aware that participating in interscholastic athletic teams means they must comply with district and state athletic eligibility regulations, and that many teams require try-outs.
- International students are required to maintain academic progress by the end of their first semester.



Acceptance Eligibility

- International students' enrollment eligibility will be for one year only. International students and host families are expected to follow all school policies and rules.
- International students must have medical and accident insurance that meets or exceeds U.S. Department of State guidelines. International students are expected to have proper immunizations and adhere to CDC guidance relative to infectious disease.
- Since there is a wide variation of graduation policies in the United States, international students will understand that they are not guaranteed the ability to graduate or be granted diplomas.





WORKING WITH F-1 STUDENTS

The most successful and rewarding international student program occurs when international students experience American high school life in its fullest form.

MODEL SCHOOLS THEREFORE:

1. Understand that the F-1 program is semester/year long (in public school) or multi-year (private school) in duration and that participants are fully enrolled students



2. Provide international students all rights and privileges accorded to community students - EXCEPT the right to special and remedial services.



3. Make every effort to integrate international students into the school's social fabric.



4. Encourage international students to participate enthusiastically in school activities, to make friends, to make a personal contribution to the school, and



5. Help international students spread the word about their country and themselves, both formally by making presentations in classes and to community groups, and informally by encouraging interactions between the international and the student body.

