



March 20, 2025

Dear High School Administrator,

You have a unique opportunity to use international exchange programs to encourage your students to build international connections and global competence. As you look to the coming school year, we ask you to partner 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 promotes cultural awareness, is a great way for American students to improve their intercultural communication skills, build global competency, and spark intellectual curiosity — enriching the educational experience.

International exchange students benefit from these same outcomes, but also get to experience the unique and storied American high school spirit, while reinforcing the values that make America a global leader.

Beyond the classroom, exchange students give back to their community through volunteer projects with an estimate of 696,000 hours performed annually. Exchange programs contribute to stronger, more connected communities. By introducing students from around the world to our education system, and American life, we not only build lifelong friendships but also foster goodwill that strengthens America's global standing and competitiveness, making America stronger and more prosperous.

Your commitment to this mission is vital to the success of our efforts.

When partnering with a [CSIET Certified J-1 cultural exchange program](#), your school staff will not feel additional pressure or responsibility hosting international exchange students. The process can be as simple as reviewing a packet, signing the acceptance and emailing it back. The certified programs handle all the hard work, saving your staff time and effort. You can expect CSIET certified programs to:

- Provide student applications & school required health forms
- Complete required State and Federal Government forms
- Provide a qualified and trained representative who supports the student locally
- Identify, interview, and screen potential host families
- Conduct host family and student orientations
- Monitor the progress of the student

Annually, [CSIET-certified J-1 organizations](#) welcome and integrate approximately 20,000 students into school communities like yours. Included with 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 with whom you work, 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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CHRISTOPHER B. PAGE,
Executive Director