

412: Foreign Exchange and Privately Placed Foreign Students

1. Purpose:

The primary purpose of the enrollment of foreign students is to improve the students' knowledge of American culture through participation in school, family and community. All students benefit by enhancing their social, ethnic and global awareness.

2. Policy:

2.1 Federal immigration laws do not authorize foreign students in the United States on short-term tourist visas to enroll in public school. All foreign students must be approved for enrollment through St. George Academy.

2.2 SGA Administration will determine on a yearly basis how many foreign exchange students can enroll in SGA based on available resources.

2.3 The Federal Government, State Board of Education and St. George Academy expect all foreign students to be proficient and fluent in the English language. A reliable record of English language proficiency, such as: English oral, reading and writing proficiency on a standardized English test; grades from an English class on an official transcript; or a letter of recommendation from an English teacher or private English instructor must be provided prior to approval.

2.4. Foreign Students F-1 Visa (I-20): In the United States, the F-1 Visas are a type of non-immigrant student visa that allows foreign students to pursue education in the United States. Typically, these students live with a relative or host family. It is an optional program; St. George Academy may decline F-1 students and/or limit the number of students accepted for enrollment.

2.5. An I-20 form must be obtained in order to apply for an F-1 Visa (a student may apply for a visa up to 120 days prior to the date listed on the I-20 form). Form I-20 is a document issued by Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS): a system used to track and monitor schools and programs, students, and exchange visitors while approved to participate in the U.S. Education System. SEVIS authorizes schools to provide supporting information as included on the application which may be obtained through St. George Academy for the issuance of a student F-1 Visa. SGA must issue the I-20 form prior to the student receiving permission to leave their home country. The completed I-20 is sent to the student and may or may not be approved in their home country. All application requirements must be met, otherwise the application will be denied.

2.6 An exchange student organization/agency must be approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). In addition, the agency must provide:

- 1) Sworn affidavit of compliance prior to the beginning of each school year
- 2) Documentation that all the assurances per Utah Code 53A-2-206(6) and subsection 76-5-406(10) are in compliance.

2.7. Foreign exchange students will be considered for enrollment in St. George Academy only if the student can be included in the appropriate reporting for regular funding from the state (9-12-06; 07-01-14 Utah Code 53A-2-206(2)). SGA reserves the right to deny enrollment of foreign exchange students who do not qualify for state money (53A-2-206(3)).

3. Procedures:

3.1 Completed applications for either F-1 or J-1 exchange students may be submitted beginning April 1st to St. George Academy. Incomplete applications will be discarded.

3.2. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 limits foreign student's attendance to a cumulative total of 12 months in public secondary schools (grades 10-12). Foreign students may attend only one year studying in high schools within the United States, and not less than one full semester at St George Academy. Students should be 17 years or younger as of September 1 of the year they intend to enroll at St. George Academy.

3.3 In order to facilitate proper grade placement, records must include an official transcript, including all courses completed and grades earned. In addition, recommendation letters from previous teachers and/or principal are required.

3.4 Foreign students who have graduated in their home countries, or who have been convicted of a crime are not eligible for enrollment at St. George Academy.

3.5. When the student arrives in the United States, additional documentation must be provided to the Administration, including: the provision of a passport, health/immunization records; and proof of major medical insurance coverage.

3.6. Foreign students shall be responsible for appropriate school fees and participation charges and are not eligible for fee waivers.

3.7 Foreign students are not eligible for English as a Second Language (ESL), special education programs, or remedial programs.

3.8 Students are expected to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. If tutoring is required to help a student succeed, any costs are the responsibility of the host family or agency. Those not meeting these expectations will be referred back to the sponsoring agency or individual to return home.

3.9 Foreign exchange students may earn a certificate of completion indicating courses taken.

3.10 Foreign students shall not be allowed to enroll in Driver Education courses.

3.11 Foreign exchange students involved in Utah High School Activities Association sanctioned events must meet all UHSAA eligibility requirements.

3.12 Submission of an application does not guarantee school placement.

4. F-1 and J-1 Specifications:

4.1 F-1 students must pay tuition at the time the I-20 is given (at the full unsubsidized per capita cost of their student's education for the year (Utah Code 53A-2-206; Public Law 104-208 (625))). In the event that the student is not approved, the tuition, excluding the application fee, may be refunded.

4.2. Foreign Exchange Students J-1 status: The Exchange Visitor (J) non-immigrant visa category is for individuals approved to participate in work- and study-based exchange visitor programs. State funding for J-1 foreign exchange students is limited. The quota or allocation of J-1 students per district is set by the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) by April 1.