

Alvin ISD Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Students

It is the goal of the Alvin Independent School District to provide a foreign exchange program where international students have the opportunity to experience a dynamic educational program, learn about the history of the United States, the working of our government and to become more fluent in both the written and spoken English language.

Due to the rapid growth in Alvin ISD, the District has applied for a waiver from the Texas Education Agency to limit the number of foreign exchange students at any high school to a maximum of five (5) students per year. Participation will be on a first come/first-serve basis after all requirements are met. Waiting lists will not be maintained to hold an agency's or student's request for enrollment.

The following guidelines have been developed to assist the foreign exchange organizations, the foreign exchange students, and the host family in understanding the requirements and participation of this program:

1. All foreign exchange organizations shall meet the requirements of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.
2. Application forms and all required documentation must be received in the Office of Administrative Services before the deadline established for the academic year for which acceptance is being requested. This includes an official transcript of the student that has been translated into English.
3. Any cost for student records required by the foreign exchange program or home country is the responsibility of the foreign exchange student.
4. The host family must reside in the high school attendance zone for the high school for which the foreign exchange organization is making application. Since falsification of a student record is now a felony in the state of Texas, a foreign exchange student will be withdrawn immediately if the host family falsifies information regarding their home address in an effort to place a student at a high school outside their attendance zone.
5. 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returned to his/her country or is moved to another district, no new foreign exchange student will replace the student withdrawn.
6. Foreign exchange students are accepted for one calendar year, and will not be approved for a single semester.
7. 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.
8. The foreign exchange student is responsible for providing the month/date/year of all immunizations. Immunization records must be in English.
9. The foreign exchange student's host family must be an Alvin 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 Alvin ISD 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. These students will not be included in a high school's class rankings or graduation; except when a transcript reflects successful completion of all required credits for graduation and End-of-Course exams.
13. The foreign exchange student's transcript prior to registering in AISD will be evaluated to determine student grade level and courses. The transcript will not be transcribed to reflect courses earned in Alvin ISD.
14. Foreign exchange students are expected to take the state assessments for the courses in which the student is placed. If a foreign exchange student is an eligible English Language Learner (ELL), then the STAAR English I assessment special provision under the Texas Administrative Code at 101.1007 applies.
15. Foreign exchange students will be at a distinct disadvantage if they do not have adequate skills in written and spoken English.
16. Foreign exchange students are not eligible to receive free or reduced meals as part of the foreign exchange program.
17. Coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities will be responsible for obtaining and evaluating proper credentials to determine a foreign exchange student's eligibility for participation in an UIL activity for which the student expresses interest.

For questions concerning the enrollment of foreign exchange students in Alvin ISD, please contact the Office of Administrative Services at 281-245-2440. For additional information, please see the Foreign Exchange Students FAQ document on the Texas Education Agency's website.