



## **623 SCHOOL ADMISSION FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The school district affirms the benefits of foreign exchange experiences for students and for the school district in hosting exchange students. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the admission of international students is in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and rules.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The board of education endorses the admission of international students when permitted by federal and state laws and rules. Participation of students representing multiple languages and cultures can extend and enrich the learning of all students and promote cross-cultural understanding.

### **III. SCHOOL ADMISSION FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

- A. The school district will accept exchange students from programs properly approved under federal and state laws and rules.
  1. The school district may limit the number of exchange students accepted due to large student enrollment.
  2. When the school district is notified of a potential exchange student, they will notify the high school principal of the upcoming student and the agency/exchange program that is working with the student for registration.
  3. The potential exchange student must be of appropriate age and meet the following criteria to be admitted to Columbia Heights Public Schools on a tuition-free basis:
    - a. The student is a resident of the Columbia Heights Public School district or another Minnesota school district and has enrolled in accordance with the Columbia Heights Public School Board Policy 509, Enrollment of Nonresident Students.
    - b. The student has a J-1 visa and is attending school as part of an approved cultural exchange program.

- c. The exchange student must provide evidence of significant English fluency documented in their exchange program application packet.
  - d. The exchange student must receive all vaccinations required by the Minnesota school immunization law.
  - e. The student has not received a high school diploma or the equivalent.
- 4. Maximum enrollment period is one school year.
  - 5. Host parents are designated as guardians.

#### **IV. POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTION PROGRAM**

- A. Exchange students enrolled in the district under a cultural exchange program are ineligible to participate in the PSEO (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options) Program.

#### **V. PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- A. According to the Minnesota State High School League Rules, exchange students who transfer through a recognized foreign exchange program are eligible to compete at all levels of interscholastic competition.

#### **VI. SUPPORT**

- A. The principal shall designate one administrator or member of the professional staff as the liaison for exchange students.

**Legal References:** MINN. STAT. § 120A.20 Admission to Public School

**Cross References:** CHPS Policy 509 (Enrollment of Nonresident Students)