

## **Sparta Area School District**

### Article 413 - Foreign Exchange Student Policy

The primary purpose of the foreign exchange student program is to improve the visiting student's knowledge of American culture and language through active participation in family, school and community life. A secondary purpose is to improve district students' knowledge of a foreign culture.

A Foreign Exchange Student is defined as a student who at the time of enrollment is between 15 and 18 years of age, is not a citizen of the United States, and whose intention it is to return to his or her native country at the completion of the current school year. Foreign students who will be staying with relatives within the Sparta Area School District are not included in this definition.

Prior to consideration for admission, the school district shall be provided with the following information:

1. An official transcript from the student's most recent educational institution
2. A recent health certification from a medical doctor, which shall include a personal health history and immunization record. This must include appropriate and current immunizations.
3. A personal data sheet
4. Proof of health and accident insurance (personal or sponsoring organization)
5. Assurance that the hosting family is accepting the student voluntarily and is not receiving remuneration from either the natural parents or the exchange group
6. Other information of a reasonable nature requested by the administration

All of the above documents shall be provided in English.

#### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

Admission shall be limited to students participating in non-profit exchange programs which are operated in accordance with the guidelines issued by the United States Information Agency and whose compliance with those guidelines has been verified by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. Such organizations shall be structured so as to provide adequate local support for their students in a timely manner as deemed appropriate by the administration.

To be enrolled, students must present a J-1 Visa with passport.

The student must reside with a district resident.

The number of Foreign Exchange Students may be limited to five students. In order to foster the educational benefits of district students, no more than two students, per year, will be allowed from any individual country or from any single sponsoring exchange program. Priority will be given to students from exchange programs with which the school has had previous favorable experiences.

Sponsoring exchange programs shall receive approval and acceptance for each student from the administration prior to confirming placement of said student with the prospective host family. Approval may be declined after August 15 even if the five student limit has not been met.

Students must be able to communicate effectively in English. Students may be subject to an interview, in person or by phone, with administration or guidance staff if there is a concern about language skills.

#### GUIDELINES:

Foreign Exchange Students will be enrolled in classes best suited to their individual abilities however, they will be members of the sophomore class for all other purposes.

Foreign Exchange Students will be allowed to participate in graduation activities providing their attendance and performance warrants such participation. They will receive a Certificate of Attendance unless circumstances warrant otherwise.

Foreign Exchange Students are expected to abide by all rules pertaining to behavior, attendance, extra-curricular activities, athletics and other areas as may be established from time to time by the School Board or administration for the general student body.

It is the policy of the Sparta Area School District to comply with all applicable state or federal laws concerning non-discrimination and, therefore, no person may be denied admission to any public school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity on grounds that include, but are not necessarily limited to, the person's sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy or marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap.

Legal Reference:                   Wisconsin Statutes 118.13, 121.84  
  Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964  
  Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972  
  Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Cross Reference:

Approved:

Revised:                           December 20, 2005  
  January 29, 2008  
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  April 25, 2017