



FREEDOM  
PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Approved 03/22/2018  
Amended none

## **FREEDOM PREPARATORY ACADEMY Foreign Exchange Students**

Policy No. 41

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Freedom Preparatory Academy seeks the safety and success of all foreign exchange students admitted to attend school at Freedom Preparatory Academy. To ensure the security and success of these students, procedures have been developed which will: 1) require certain standards of exchange agencies and programs, 2) ensure that students meet all visa requirements, 3) require background checks and appropriate training for host parents, and 4) assure that students will receive proper care and supervision in a safe environment during their stay.

In accordance with Utah State legislation determining that local school boards must regulate their own policies for the admission of foreign exchange students, the Freedom Preparatory Administration directs the development of procedures for managing these admissions and to ensure that appropriate requirements are met by students, host families, and exchange agencies and programs.

### Legal References:

Utah Code 53A-2-205

Utah Code 53A-2-206

Federal Public Law 104-208 Section 625

Permitting attendance by nonresident  
Exchange Students

Foreign Students

# Freedom Preparatory Academy Exchange Student Recommendation

## Exchange Students (J-1 Visa)

### Issue

Local school boards are required to create their own policy on the admission of foreign exchange students (J-1 student visa).

### Background

Prior to March 2002, foreign exchange agencies went through the Utah State Office of Education for placement of students throughout Utah. At that time, the legislature did not approve the funding for the 320 foreign exchange students that previously were allowed to attend schools in Utah. The legislature has now approved the funding to bring this program back; however, each local school board is required to regulate their policy for admittance.

### Recommendation

According to Freedom Preparatory enrollment, it is recommended that the school accept as many students as the state will allow on a yearly basis. The number of students accepted will be based on funding from the state legislature. These students should be included on the October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment count, in which the state will fund their enrollment. It is required that the agency or program sign a Sworn Affidavit of Assurances (attached) and be registered with the Council on Standards for International Education Travel (<http://www.csiet.org/>). Freedom will accept students beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>.

1. Foreign exchange students seeking admission to Freedom Preparatory Academy on a J-1 visa must be registered with the Council on Standards For International Education Travel (CSIET)
2. The school will determine how many foreign exchange students may be accepted annually based on availability of space and school resources.
3. The agency or program needs to complete the school's required Sworn Affidavit of Assurances as prescribed in state law and board policy and the agency or program must have complied with the following:
  - A household study, including a background check of all adult residents in each household where an exchange student is to reside (A background study assures that the exchange student will receive proper care and supervision in a safe environment);
  - Host parents have received training appropriate to their positions, including information about enhanced criminal penalties under Utah Code Subsection 76-5-406(10) for persons who are in a position of special trust;
  - A representative of the exchange student agency shall visit each student's place of residence at least monthly during the student's stay in Utah.
  - The agency shall cooperate with school and other public authorities to ensure that no exchange student becomes an unreasonable burden upon the district or other public agencies;
  - Alternative placements are readily available so that no student is required to remain in a household if conditions appear to exist, which unreasonably endanger the student's welfare.

4. Student application from approved agencies may be submitted to Student Services from March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>. No applications will be accepted after the deadline; however the school may reach its quota before October 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Agencies will be notified as soon as possible if the student's application is accepted or denied by the school.
6. A Transcript of credits and complete Utah School Immunization Records (including the TB Test) must be presented to the school at the time of school registration. A list of approved Exchange Students will be given to the school. The agency or program shall provide translations of transcripts or other student documents if requested by the school before a student may be registered.
7. Foreign Exchange students may not be granted fee waivers or be provided transportation at District expense beyond established school bus routes.
8. Exchange students are not eligible to receive Special Education Services or ESL services, and must maintain a C average.
9. No exchange student will be granted a Utah High School Diploma, but at the discretion of the school, may participate in the graduation ceremony/activities.
10. According to Utah Admin Code R277-612-3, (<https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-612.htm>), the state Superintendent will allocate funds to pay the costs of educating foreign exchange students who meet all criteria of the law. Additionally, an LEA may enroll foreign exchange students who do not qualify for state monies and the foreign exchange student may be charged tuition.

