

STUDENTSForeign Exchange Students

It is the policy of the Board to recognize the benefits from foreign exchange students in the District. The Board does not, however, sponsor foreign exchange programs. The District does not provide financial contributions to the student. The Board assumes no responsibility or control over items such as travel, living accommodations, funding, insurance, etc., which remain the responsibility of the sponsor and/or student.

J-1 visa holders (students sponsored by an approved foreign exchange organization) are eligible to attend secondary schools. Any sponsoring organization must have a local representative, be a nonprofit organization, and be approved by the Council on Standards for International Education Travel. The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program is a non-immigrant visa category designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through bona fide educational and cultural exchange.

F-1 visa holders (individual foreign students sponsored by relatives or friends) may attend the District for a period not to exceed 12 months and in accordance with federal requirements. The F-1 academic student program is a non-immigrant visa category intended for use by nonresident aliens whose primary purpose for visiting the United States is to study full-time at an approved institution. The student or family shall be assessed and shall reimburse the District for the full, unsubsidized cost of education for the period of attendance. It is the parent and/or host parents responsibility to secure the proper paperwork required for any F-1 student visa holder wishing to enroll in the Helena Public Schools.

The number of foreign exchange students attending each high school at one time shall not exceed seven (7) unless approved by the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. 221, et seq.

Policy History:

Adopted on: 9.9.2014

Revised on: 11.14.2017

Reviewed on: 9.3.2024