

ADMISSION OF EXCHANGE AND FOREIGN STUDENTS

In order to promote cultural awareness and understanding and to provide diverse experiences to district students, the School Committee may admit foreign exchange students into the schools of the District. Space considerations may be considered as a factor in determining admission. The School Committee may accept only foreign exchange students who meet the established guidelines for admission to District schools.

Academic Requirements

Students shall be at least sixteen years of age and no student will be admitted who has already graduated from the equivalent of twelfth grade or who will reach the age of twenty-one during the proposed enrollment year.

The student must have average or above-average grades in school at home and must not require special education services in order to function in the regular academic program.

The student must have sufficient knowledge of the English language to enable effective oral and written communication and to function in a regular educational setting without special assistance. If a student's English proficiency is found to be insufficient to function in the regular instructional program without special assistance, the exchange program or private sponsor must provide a tutor or make other educational arrangements for the student at their expense. If the program or sponsors fail to do so, the student will be withdrawn.

The district will not provide foreign students with admission to special education programs, English as a Second Language programs, post secondary options or other special programs.

Students are expected to carry a full class load and are expected to maintain passing grades in all classes.

General Requirements

The sponsor, host family and local program representative must maintain personal contact with the school, must be available and willing to meet with school personnel when problems or circumstances require and must assume full and final responsibility for resolving problems including the early return of the student if personal, family or school difficulties cannot be resolved.

Foreign exchange students shall comply with all immunization requirements for students.

Once admitted, all exchange students shall be subject to all district policies and regulations governing students.

Foreign students are fully financially responsible for the exchange year expenses, including but not limited to all lunches, books, athletic and student activity fees and other fees, yearbook costs, and all other expenses normally borne by students in the district. Foreign students are not entitled to free or reduced prices for lunches.

If a participant in inter-scholastic athletics, the eligibility requirements of the Nantucket Public Schools and the MIAA will be followed.

If a student's grades, conduct or discipline are deemed unsatisfactory by the school, the student may be withdrawn.

Admissions process

Approvals for admission must be obtained from the district between April 15th and July 31st for the following school year, except under unusual circumstances.

All applications will be screened by the principal of the high school before they are forwarded for review and approval of the superintendent. If approved, they will be presented to the Nantucket Public Schools School Committee for final approval.

Upon the student's arrival in the district, the adult sponsor (host family and/or local representative of the exchange program) and student must come to the school to complete the enrollment process. Students must arrive in sufficient time for attendance on the first day of school.

Students requesting admission must submit:

1. Birth certificate or other proof of age
2. Recent official transcript with English translation reflecting courses taken and grades earned
3. Proof of English proficiency, including evidence that the student has successfully completed a minimum of three years of instruction in English and a letter of recommendation from the English Language teacher documenting the level of proficiency or evidence that the student has passed a test of English language proficiency, such as the SLEP, TOEFL or FSI.
4. Records showing any required immunizations
5. Evidence of medical insurance that will cover the student while residing in the district.
6. Student conduct report, if any.
7. A letter of application written in English by the student that provides pertinent information about the student, including student's name, age, birth date, home address and phone number, level of education, reasons for wanting to attend school in the district and the projected duration of enrollment.
8. The names, addresses and phone numbers of the exchange student's own parents/guardians, the host family and the local exchange program representative.
9. A notarized temporary custody agreement between the student's parents and the host family and/or exchange program.