



Foreign exchange students, with rare exception, use their year in the United States for an experience abroad and forego the goal of a United States diploma. Prior to enrollment in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, the foreign exchange students must decide if they want to pursue an MNPS high school diploma. If the exchange students do not intend to graduate from MNPS, they must sign an MNPS document agreeing to adhere to MNPS regulations. A representative of the host family and the exchange program's staff must sign this document, also. (See Attachment A.) This must be completed before the exchange student's enrollment in MNPS.

Intent to Graduate from MNPS

Exchange students must meet all MNPS requirements for a high school diploma if one is to be awarded. They must present their transcript and declare their intention to graduate upon enrollment as well as follow the same guidelines as international students in terms of transcript interpretation and credit determination. English taken in a foreign country as a foreign language is regarded as ELL credit, not English I, II, III, or IV credit.

ELL Program

The English Language Learners (ELL) Program is not available to foreign exchange students since they must be proficient in all areas of the English language prior to enrolling in an MNPS high school. Proof of students' English proficiency must be provided by the sponsoring agency.

Enrollment in Magnet Schools

Foreign exchange students may not enroll in a magnet school unless they meet the same criteria as a Nashville student, and meet the same application deadlines, participate in the magnet school admission lottery, and be selected in the lottery system to attend a specific magnet school.

Graduation Participation

Foreign exchange students may not wear caps and gowns or participate in graduation unless they have met all the graduation requirements to earn a MNPS high school diploma. However, if there are foreign exchange students in a high school, that high school must provide for the recognition of such students during the graduation ceremony.

Date Published

Revision History

Review

Entry into the U.S./Visas

It is the responsibility of the sponsoring agency to obtain the necessary visa for entry into the United States. Due to extensive homeland security regulations, MNPS does not issue I-20 application forms.

Schools should accept foreign exchange students only from approved agencies. The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (www.csiet.org) maintains a list of approved exchange programs for reference.