

POLICY JFABB **Board of Education**
Las Cruces Public Schools

Related Entries: JFABB-R, JFAB, JFAB-R, JE, JFA, JFA-R, JI, JI-R, JLCB, JLCB-R
Responsible Office: Associate Superintendent for Instruction

FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of Policy JFABB is to ensure foreign exchange and international students are able to participate and/or enroll in the Las Cruces Public Schools to support their educational experiences.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. The Board of Education recognizes the benefits derived from the placement of foreign exchange students in our school programs. The Board believes strongly that the exchange of students will increase the understanding among peoples of the world.
- B. It is also the Board's belief that international students will enhance their educational opportunities by obtaining a high school diploma that allows them to enter a post-secondary institution.

III. DEFINITION

- 1. *"Foreign exchange student"* means a non-immigrant secondary student between the ages of 15 and 18 entering the Las Cruces ~~School District~~ Public Schools under the sponsorship of an approved foreign exchange organization.
- 2. *"F-1 Visa and Form I-20"* means the visa type and eligibility form that is utilized for international students in the Student and Exchange Visitor System (SEVIS).
- 3. *"International student"* means a student from another country who seeks to enroll in the Las Cruces Public Schools, most often during their senior year, for the purpose of seeking a high school diploma.
- 4. *"J-1 Visa and Form DS2019"* means the visa type and eligibility form that is utilized for exchange students in the Student and Exchange Visitor System (SEVIS).

IV. POSITION

- A. Foreign exchange and international students entering the Las Cruces Public Schools must comply with the provisions of Sections 625, 641 and 346 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

- B. The period of enrollment within the district is as follows:
 - 1. for a foreign exchange student, enrollment may range from one full semester to a maximum of one academic year. (Students on an approved DS2019 status may have a shorter enrollment period depending on their application and acceptance to a university.)
 - 2. for an international student, enrollment may not exceed one year. For international diploma-seeking students, the study period will be during their senior year, in order for them to receive a high school diploma and subsequently, for them to be able to matriculate to one of New Mexico's post-secondary institutions.
- C. Some foreign exchange and international diploma-seeking students are required to pay the full cost of education (tuition) for the duration of their studies within Las Cruces Public Schools. The cost is determined through state statute (see Policy and Regulation JFAB, Admission of Non-Resident Students). LCPS shall inform students and their parents (or host agency) in advance of their enrollment as to whether tuition will be imposed.
- D. The Superintendent or designee will establish consistent guidelines and regulations to ensure that the acceptance and placement of foreign exchange and international students in LCPS schools will be a beneficial experience for all involved.
- E. Foreign exchange and international students will be subject to the same policies, rules of conduct and attendance requirements as other LCPS students.
- F. The Las Cruces Public Schools limits the number of foreign exchange students admitted to five (5) students per high school in any given year. Additionally, the Las Cruces Public Schools reserves the right to deny placement opportunities for all applicants relative to space availability in its high schools.

V. REVIEW

This Policy shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Maria A. Flores

Board of Education, President

December 13, 2016

Date Approved

History: New Policy, 5.02.06; revised 12.13.16 (NMSU review)

Legal Reference: 22-12-5