

JFABB - Acceptance of International and Exchange Students

In order to provide students at Westwood High School with the opportunity to engage with students from diverse cultures, the School Committee may support the enrollment of international students in the Westwood Public Schools as provided for in this section.

The Westwood Public Schools may accept tuition-free, on a space-available basis, enrollment of international students fluent in the English language who (1) reside within the boundaries of Westwood; (2) meet age, schooling, and English language fluency requirements as outlined below; and (3) participate in an officially recognized high school student exchange program.

Westwood Public Schools requires all international students to be formally affiliated with a program and/or agency that places international students in American high schools, monitors their academic progress, and provides support to host families. At a minimum, the host organization will:

- A. Be responsible for placing the student with a host family for the duration of the enrollment period and provide logistical support throughout the period, including obtaining a visa, registering the student in Westwood Public Schools, and ensuring that the student is properly immunized.
- B. Provide a point person during the school year who acts as a liaison between the school, host's home, student's home, and/or the placement organization.

International students must be at least 16 years of age on or before September 1 of the school year of their intended attendance. New entrants at all grade levels will be required to present at the time of enrollment a birth certificate or other evidence of birth; proof of having received or being in the process of receiving required immunizations; a record of physical examination by a licensed physician; and proof of residency within the town of Westwood.

An international student is considered a resident of Westwood if they reside in a dwelling within the boundaries of the town. Verification of local residence and pertinent records must be reviewed by the Principal before presented to the Superintendent and before permission is granted. The town resident with whom the international student will live shall be responsible for all immigration and sponsorship matters.

No student who has received a diploma or equivalent certificate from a secondary school or its foreign counterpart shall be eligible to attend Westwood High School under this section. No student will be admitted who has already graduated from the equivalent of twelfth grade or who will reach the age of nineteen years on or before September 1 of that school year.

Students participating in an exchange may be required to complete the same work as their fellow students. They may receive a grade for this work, and WPS will generate an official transcript as needed upon the conclusion of the school year. Students who complete their senior year at WHS may receive a certificate of completion and participate in graduation activities, unless they are disqualified according to existing handbook policy.

If it is believed that an international student meets this criteria, families should contact the Principal to begin the process for enrollment approval. Once enrollment is accepted by the Superintendent, the District Administration and High School Guidance offices will work with the student, family, and agency to finalize registration.

First reading: December 9, 2021

Second reading: January 13, 2022

Third reading:

Adoption: