



5/14/2021

Dear High School Administrator,

The last year has demanded countless hours of planning as you charted a path for your school community through uncertainty. As you look to the 2021-2022 school year, we hope you will continue your important partnership with the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and its [certified international student exchange organizations](#) to bring global understanding to your school and local community.

Today we want to provide an update on the state of international student exchange programs by sharing our responses to the three most frequently asked questions from school leaders:

**Q: Are international student exchange programs able to operate?**

**A:** Yes, high school exchange programs continue to operate with the permission of the United States Department of State, The Department of Homeland Security, and thousands of interested participants.

**Q: Are students able to obtain visas?**

**A:** High school students are eligible to receive visas to travel to the United States as designated by the United States Department of State and The Department of Homeland Security. While the speed of visa processing has slowed, consulates and embassies around the world continue to issue them.

**Q: Are students allowed to travel to the United States?**

**A:** International student exchange participants may travel to the United States. As of January 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) require all travelers to the United States to present a negative COVID test taken no more than three calendar days prior to their arrival. This applies to international student exchange participants and citizens alike.

CSIET-certified organizations continue to welcome and integrate thousands of students into school communities like yours over the past year. If you have specific questions about the operational plans and best practices of the organization you work with, we encourage you to reach out to them directly.

What has remained clear throughout the past year is that the mission to foster global understanding through international student exchange is more important than ever. Your commitment to this mission is vital. Not only do these students return home with positive views of the United States, but by studying and participating in school activities alongside your students, they help broaden the world view of your entire community.

Thank you for welcoming international exchange students into your community. We appreciate all that you do to educate our youth and make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Christopher Page  
CSIET Executive Director

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