United States Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20547

www.state.gov

Dear School Administrator,

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, thank you for accepting the enrollment of a Secondary School Student Program exchange visitor.

High School programs have been a part of U.S. public diplomacy efforts since 1949. Approximately 25,000 high school students from around the world participate in the J-1 Visa Exchange Program. This program is not only a great opportunity for international students to experience the culture and diversity of the United States, but it allows U.S. students to expand their horizons as well. The good will of American high schools in opening their campuses to these young international visitors is vital to this program's success.

Each sponsoring organization has a local representative who will oversee each student's year in your school. They are also available to serve as a point of contact for you, your teachers, and the host families. The health, safety, and well-being of the students who participate in this program are collectively our highest priority.

I hope this will be a rewarding experience for you, the school, and the exchange student. It is extremely important that you notify your program sponsor if you have any concerns or if the student's personal health, safety, or well-being is threatened in any way. If the sponsor is not responsive to your concerns, please contact the Department of State directly at the 24 hour toll free number (1-866-283-9090) that has been established for this purpose. In addition, the program sponsor provides each student with an identification card, which lists the student's host family address and telephone numbers, separate telephone numbers for immediate contact with the sponsor organization and the sponsor's local representative, and the Department of State's toll free phone number and email address (jvisas@state.gov). The student should keep this card with him/her at all times and contact us if s/he has any concerns about his/her health, safety, or well-being.

The Department of State is deeply appreciative of your kindness and generosity in making this educational and cultural experience possible.

Sincerely,

Robin J. Lerner
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Private Sector Exchange