

# Foreign Exchange Students

## Admission of Foreign Exchange Students

**1. Foreign Exchange Students (F-1 Status Visa)** Rockwell Charter High School is a designated charter in the State of Utah to issue I-20's (F-1 visa). Rockwell does not place F-1 status foreign exchange students.

1. CIEE: 1-207-553-4299

**2. Tourist or Visitor Visa.** As per state law, Rockwell does not admit foreign students who are temporarily in the country on a tourist or visitor visa.

**3. Children of Parents who reside in the country while on a work or educational Visa.** Students whose parents or guardians reside in the country on a work or educational visa may be admitted to a Rockwell.

**4. Foreign Exchange Students (J-1 Visa).** Foreign exchange students seeking admission to the Rockwell on a J-1 visa must be sponsored by a charter-approved foreign exchange agency or program. Students are issued a J-1 Visa by the U.S. Department of Immigration. A "J-1 foreign exchange student" is a foreign national secondary student who has entered the United States for up to ONE YEAR for a *cultural and educational experience*, and whose placement is approved by Rockwell Administration.

**5.** The Utah State Board of Education determines how many Foreign Exchange students are placed annually based on availability of space and legislative resources.

**6.** Rockwell will accept Foreign Exchange students from agencies and programs that meet the following requirements:

(a) The agency or program has been evaluated and approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), and

(b) The agency or program has completed Rockwell's required sworn affidavit of assurances as prescribed in state law and board policy which states the agency has complied with the following: a household study, including a background check of all adult residents in each household where an exchange student is to reside; a background study assures the exchange student will receive proper care and supervision in a safe environment; host parents have received training appropriate to their positions, including information about enhanced criminal penalties under Utah Code Subsection 76-5-406(10) for persons who are in a position of special trust; a representative of the exchange student agency will visit each student's place of residence at least monthly during the student's stay in Utah; the agency will cooperate with school and other public authorities to ensure that no exchange student becomes an unreasonable burden upon the district or other public agencies; each exchange student will be given, in the student's native language, names and telephone numbers of agency representatives and others who could be called at any time if a serious problem occurs, and; alternative placements are readily available so no student is required to remain in a household if conditions appear to exist which unreasonably endanger the student's welfare.

**7.** Rockwell enrolls F-1/J-1 foreign exchange students on a full or half year school basis. A student cannot have previously participated in an academic year or semester secondary school student exchange program in the United States. In order to qualify for placement, a student must be at least 12 years of age, but not more than 18 years and six months at the time of enrollment. **NOTE:** *Students who have graduated from secondary school in*

*their home country, or whose class has graduated, will not be placed in a Rockwell, regardless of age.*

Students placed must be bona fide secondary students in their home country and cannot have completed more than 11 years of primary and secondary study, exclusive of kindergarten. The student's grade placement will be at the grade level in which they would be placed had they not left their country.

**8.** The State Board of Education and Rockwell expect **all foreign students to be proficient and fluent in the English language**. It is not the intent, nor is it financially possible, to expend the support for ESL Services instruction for foreign students. Foreign exchange students may not be granted fee waivers or be provided transportation at Rockwell's expense beyond established school bus routes.

**9. J-1 FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR ENROLLMENT IN A DRIVER'S EDUCATION CLASS.**

**10. Foreign Exchange Agency Information**

(a) Rockwell approved agencies may then submit student applications to Rockwell Administration/PDSO (after May 15 and no later than July 15).

(b) In order to secure a school placement, the agency representative must contact Rockwell Administration with *(1) the student application, (2) student profile, and (3) a signed confirmation from the school boundary host family of their intent to sponsor the student in their home.* Agencies will be notified as soon as possible if the student's application is accepted or denied by the school. *During the school year, if there is a need to change host families and schools, that change must be coordinated through the representative of the agency that sponsors the student and Rockwell Administration.*

(e) Transcript of credits and complete Utah School Immunization records must be presented at the school at the time of registration. The agency or program will provide translations of transcripts or other student documents if requested by the school before a student may be registered.