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Office of the  
President

# American Intercultural Student Exchange

A non-profit tax exempt educational Foundation

## **TO: SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, PRINCIPALS AND HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

American Intercultural Student Exchange (AISE) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, educational foundation dedicated to fostering international understanding for high school students from different countries in Europe, South America, Australia, Thailand, and Japan. AISE also sends American students overseas to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and Australia.

In the United States AISE maintains its National Headquarters in Lake Village, Arkansas with 14 regional offices throughout the United States. AISE relies on a nationwide network of trained Area Representatives and State Coordinators and a Director of Counseling.

American Intercultural Student Exchange is designated by the United States Department of State, Washington, D.C. as an Exchange Visitor Program. This program follows the criteria established by DOS. American Intercultural Student Exchange is also a member of Council on Standards for International Educational Travel, Alexandria, Virginia (CSIET), the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs, Washington, D.C. (NAFSA) and the National Association for Secondary Schools Principals (NASSP).

American Intercultural Student Exchange would like to request your acceptance of the AISE Exchange Students in your school district. It is understood that high schools do not sponsor Exchange Student Programs and that the responsibility of other aspects of the Exchange Students' experiences such as travel, living accommodations, family selection, funding and insurance are the sole responsibility of AISE.

Attached to this letter you will find information regarding the American Intercultural Student Exchange Program. If you would like more information, please contact the nearest AISE Regional Office or the National Headquarters, 707 Lake Hall Rd., Lake Village, AR 71653. Telephone: (870) 265-5050.

## **1. SELECTION OF STUDENTS AND ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Each Exchange Student must be completely healthy, both physically and mentally, and of exemplary character. A transcript of school courses and grades with an English translation must be submitted, and each Exchange Student must have good command of the English language as well as satisfactory school and personal references. Each Exchange Student must satisfactorily complete an interview with a Representative of the Organization after being recommended by their school officials.

AISE offers qualified overseas high school students between the ages of 15 through 18 years of age the opportunity to spend a school year (August through June) with an American Host Family. The students are from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Ecuador, New Zealand, Australia, Korea, Viet Nam, China, and Japan.

## **2. HOST FAMILIES AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

Each Exchange Student accepted on the AISE program will receive the name and address of their Host Family well in advance of their arrival in the United States. This is necessary to allow both the Exchange Student and the Host Family time and opportunity to learn about each other before the arrival of the Exchange Student. Experience has proven that correspondence eliminates many false expectations and helps to build friendship, trust and understanding.

## **3. THE SCHOOL AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

The exposure of members of the student body of an American High School to a person of their age of another culture, language and heritage is a special experience. The effect of such contact can be a life-long influence in building tolerance and understanding of other nationalities. Many of the Exchange Students get involved in extra curricular activities and thus take advantage of the uniqueness of the American school system.

The high school plays a major roll in the AISE Exchange Student's exchange experience and will affect the Exchange Student's view of America. Many of the Exchange Students who participate in the AISE program are of above-average intelligence and motivation and when they become adults attain influential positions in their home country.

## **4. IMMUNIZATION RECORDS FOR THE SCHOOL**

Each Exchange Student receives immunization prior to their arrival in the United States. If a specific High School requires additional immunizations, the Area Representative or the Host Family will write a letter to the Exchange Student making certain that he/she will arrive with all required immunizations for the school.

## **5. INSURANCE**

All AISE Exchange Students are completely covered by medical and accident insurance.

## **6. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

AISE is the sponsor of the Exchange Student and therefore assumes full responsibility for the Exchange Student's round-trip transportation, living accommodations, insurance and supervision. The Exchange Student is responsible for his/her own spending money.

## **7. AREA REPRESENTATIVES**

The schools can be assured that each AISE Exchange Student will have an Area Representative who will work closely as a liaison between the school, the Host Family and the Exchange Student. Our Area Representatives will honor guidelines of the school as well as the Host Family and will help the Exchange Student to live by these rules.