

E-19

8/14/2019

Township of Union Schools Mail - Fwd: Request for AFS International Exchange Student Acceptance

Township of Union Schools K-12



Nicole Ahern <nahern@twpunionschools.org>

**Fwd: Request for AFS International Exchange Student Acceptance**

1 message

Julia Vicidomini <jvicidomini@twpunionschools.org>  
To: "Ahern, Nicole" <nahern@twpunionschools.org>

Fri, Jul 19, 2019 at 12:39 PM

Regards,

**Julia L. Vicidomini**

**District Homeless Liaison &**

**Executive Administrative Assistant to**

**Gregory A. Tatum, Superintendent**

**Township of Union Board of Education**

**2369 Morris Ave.**

**Union, NJ 07083**

**Office: (908) 851-6407**

**Cell: (908) 451-0750**

**Fax: (908)851-6421**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marien Parsons** <mparsons@afsusa.org>  
Date: Fri, Jul 19, 2019 at 12:19 PM  
Subject: Request for AFS International Exchange Student Acceptance  
To: gtatum@twpunionschools.org <gtatum@twpunionschools.org>  
Cc: jvicidomini@twpunionschools.org <jvicidomini@twpunionschools.org>

Dear Superintendent Tatum,

My name is Marien Parsons and I represent AFS-USA in the state of New Jersey, working with a network of volunteers across the state to provide opportunities of intercultural learning to students, local schools, and volunteer families.

I am emailing you today because we have been contacted by the [REDACTED] family who would like to host two AFS international J-1 exchange student, this next school year 2019-2020. The [REDACTED] family are districted to Union High School.

[REDACTED] and her family are eager to welcome two foreign exchange students into their home and are willing to support them for the full year. They believe in the positive impact of high school international exchange and would love to enrich the community with a student from another country. They would like to host [REDACTED] from Costa Rica and [REDACTED] from Thailand, I have attached the short biography and host family letter from each student.

AFS-USA works with a network of volunteers across the state of New Jersey, to provide opportunities of intercultural learning to students, local schools, and volunteer families. AFS has a very strong and supportive team of trained volunteers in NJ who assist the student, family and school through the exchange year and in addition will provide the following,

- A host family screened and vetted in compliance with US Department of State (DOS) regulations
- Student application including academic records, a letter of recommendation from a teacher, immunization records, assessments of English ability and a personal letter from the student.
- A comprehensive secondary health insurance plan
- A J-1 visa sponsored by AFS USA for one full academic year
- Orientations and support for students and families during their exchange year from trained, local volunteers.

Our exchange students have strong English language skills, great grades and a variety of interests. All AFS applicants go through a rigorous screening process before being accepted onto an AFS program. AFS students tend to perform above grade level and need no extra academic or ESL assistance to do well.

I don't know if Union has welcomed exchange students before but it is an incredibly easy process, we work with many public schools across NJ who enroll the student just as they would any other student in the district. Many schools do not have a specific policy regarding foreign exchange students and just approve them on a case by case basis, some schools do have a policy and I have attached a couple of examples to this email as they speak to some of the positive reasons why schools appreciate the benefits of having these incredible students at their schools.

I have attached a few documents to this email for you to read regarding exchange and AFS in general.

Please could you let me know the process for exchange student enrollment in the Union district and any additional information you might need.

Warm Regards

Marien Parsons

Assistant Team Development Specialist  
New Jersey / AFS-USA, Inc

Email: mparsons@afsusa.org





Cell: (717) 265-4450  
Direct line 646-381-3370

Join our global community: Study Abroad • Host • Volunteer

*AFS-USA, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is a leader in intercultural learning and offers international exchange programs in more than 40 countries around the world. We've been exchanging students for more than 65 years with an exemplary record of safety, security, and service to students, parents, and educators. AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to our communities through a global volunteer partnership.*

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#### 6 attachments

-  AFS-USA Program Information for Schools.pdf  
365K
-  AFS-USA Inc CSIET Certificate 19-20.pdf  
393K
-  Monmouth Regional HS Policy 5118 ForeignExchange.pdf  
12K
-  Egg Harbor Township board policy for Exchange Student Programs.pdf  
14K



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures



Invite the World  
into Your School

### **AFS Exchange Students in US Schools**

AFS-USA has been a trusted leader in intercultural high school student exchange for more than 65 years, and is accredited by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). More than 5,000 trained AFS Volunteers live in communities where we place our students. AFS works in partnership with educators to provide opportunities for intercultural learning and global competencies which is part of the current US Department of Education's International Strategy for Schools.

### **Who are AFS Exchange Students?**

AFS welcomes more than 2,300 international high school students to the US from 90 countries annually. Our students:

- are seen as role models and leaders in their home communities
- must be accepted by an AFS office in their home country, as well by AFS-USA on the basis of academic achievement and motivation to study abroad
- are required to make an effort to do their best regardless of whether grades transfer home
- have a tested level of proficiency in English and strive to increase language skills
- are ambassadors for their countries and provide invaluable opportunities for global learning

### **What does AFS provide?**

- A host family screened and vetted in compliance with US Department of State (DOS) regulations
- Student applications including academic records, a letter of recommendation from a teacher, immunization records, and assessments of English ability
- A comprehensive secondary health insurance plan
- A trained local volunteer to help students and families throughout their exchange together
- Orientations for students and families during their exchange semester/year

### **What does your school provide?**

- Acceptance of enrollment prior to the student's departure from his/her home country. Signed by a school official, our Placement Acceptance Form is required by AFS and the DOS
- Enrollment in classes in the grade suitable to the student's capabilities
- Recognition of the student's achievement at the discretion of your school; students are not expected to attain diplomas as a formal means of graduation

*Continued on back*



**Daniela NJ bio hf letter.pdf**

477K



**Pariyakorn THA NJ bio hf letter.pdf**

729K

## Comparison of the J-1 Foreign Exchange & F-1 Foreign Student Programs

	<b>F-1 – Foreign Student</b>	<b>J-1 – Foreign-Exchange Student</b>
<b>Federal Oversight</b>	Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	Department of State (DOS)
<b>Responsible Party</b>	School must be approved by DHS before accepting students	Agency must be approved by DOS before accepting students
<b>Authorizing Document</b>	I-20 SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System)	DS-2019 SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System)
<b>Purpose of Visa</b>	Education	Cultural Exchange
<b>Limit of Stay</b>	Until student's education is complete	Between 6 to 12 months
<b>Types of schools</b>	Colleges/Universities, private secondary schools, private elementary schools, public secondary schools	Public secondary schools, private secondary schools (generally w/ tuition waived)
<b>Financial Obligation to School</b>	School is responsible for cost of obtaining DHS approval and for salary of individual(s) who prepare I-20s and keep SEVIS records updated. There may also be a cost for contracting with recruitment agencies which varies by agency and often requires signing a contract promising exclusivity on the part of the school, thus limiting diversity.	None, organizations are very appreciative when a school enrolls a student which is done on a case by case basis at the discretion of school administration. School is not required to award a diploma or to provide guidance services toward further education as the students are required to return to their home country at the end of their stay.
<b>Certification Process</b>	All schools in the United States that enroll nonimmigrant students must be certified; schools petition for certification using the Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student," in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. The certification process requires very detailed information from the school.	The exchange organization may issue certificates of eligibility to its participants for use in securing a U.S. non-immigrant J-1 visa and admission to the United States. Consequently, the exchange student is the responsibility of the exchange organization and not the host family, school, or other party where the student is placed.
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	Schools are required to complete reports throughout the year by logging into SEVIS. Certification is the result of an adjudication process that includes a review of the Form I-17.	The organization is responsible for all reporting requirements as the sponsoring agency for the visa. Staff will reach out to schools to confirm student success and offer trained support
<b>Host Family Reimbursement</b>	Agencies/schools often pay a host family stipend of several hundred dollars per month	Families volunteer, and are allowed a deduction on their taxes of \$50/month.
<b>Host Family Screening</b>	Varies by agency but is limited and support for Family/Students aren't required	Families undergo a through screening process and are supported to ensure student success
<b>What are the Goals of these programs?</b>	Quite often the purpose is solely academic. The goal is to further their education in U.S. with the end goal being college or a graduate program.	Students come with the purpose of immersing themselves in their local high school/community while living with a host family; they are encouraged to participate in school sports, clubs and community activities.
<b>Diversity of Students</b>	The vast majority of students are from a small number of countries, limiting diversity. Students generally come from wealthier families due to significant program costs.	Students may be from over 80 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, etc. Students come from a wide variety of economic backgrounds.
<b>Ages</b>	Any	15-18
<b>Program Costs to Students</b>	Range between \$15,000 and \$50,000 USD per year depending on program, school enrollment and payments to families/schools	Range between \$14,000 and \$16,000 USD per year, which includes insurance, airfare and program support. Many students have scholarships which cover much or even all of these costs.

## When will AFS contact my school to enroll a student?

Under DOS regulations, students cannot leave their home country until school placement and a host family have been finalized and all paperwork is completed. Having schools complete the Placement Acceptance Form indicating that they will allow an AFS Exchange Student into the school for the upcoming year is necessary and a priority. AFS will contact your school as soon as we have a family interested in hosting. We may also contact you to ensure there is a slot for a student; AFS and your school may partner to find a host family. We are happy to receive host family referrals from high school personnel. Some placements are made in the summer as this is also when families come forward with hosting interest.

## How are students and families supported during their year?

AFS Volunteers have a lot of experience in matching students with host families, and we provide extensive support throughout the year for both host families and schools. Each host family and student are assigned a liaison from the community who is the first line of support.

## What kind of visas do AFS students have?

All of our students receive J-1 visas. A J-1 visa is an educational visa that the DOS issues to accredited exchange organizations that allows a student aged 15-18 to attend high school for an academic year. There is no cost to the school, nor remuneration given to the school for the J-1 visa.

## What are the benefits of accepting a J-1 versus a F-1 visa student?

Students on a J-1 visa come to the US to immerse themselves in the local community while living with an American host family. Students may take part in school activities, including after school sports programs. Recognition of the student's achievement is at the discretion of your school, and students are not expected to attain diplomas as a formal means of graduation. AFS is a DOS-designated sponsor and is responsible for screening and selecting the students and families, as well as supporting them and your school during the exchange experiences.

F-1 visas, on the other hand, are regulated by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The local school is the responsible party in the US, accountable to DHS. Schools provide the support for these students the way that an AFS Volunteer provides support for an AFS J-1 student. F-1 students must maintain a full course load while in the US.

## My school is dealing with budget and over-crowding issues. How are we able to enroll an exchange student?

The value an exchange student offers to your entire school community and the community-at-large cannot be overestimated. Our students are not required to take a specific coursework; their school curriculum can be flexible.



*Hosting AFS students is very relevant in this ever-shrinking world and now global economy where all people must be able to get along and learn from each other in order to be successful providers for their families and productive global citizens.*



— Richard Trogisch, Principal  
The School Without Walls, Washington, DC



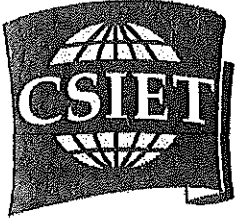
**CERTIFICATE**  
**of**  
**ACCEPTANCE**

**This is to certify that the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel has completed its review of applications for certification in the *2019-2020 Advisory List for International Educational Travel & Exchange Programs.***

**AFS-USA, Inc.**

**is hereby granted a Full J-1 Inbound Certification in the 2019-2020 edition of the *Advisory List.***

**Christopher Page**  
**Executive Director**



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Activities Association

CHRISTOPHER B. PAGE,  
Executive Director

February 1, 2019

AFS-USA, Inc.  
120 Wall Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

Dear Tara Hoffman,

The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) has found AFS-USA, Inc. to have fulfilled all the requirements for CSIET Certification and grants your organization a **Full J-1 Inbound Certification** for the *2019-2020 Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs*.

Recall that for the *2019-2020 Advisory List of International and Educational Travel & Exchange Programs*, there are three separate certification categories. The certification categories are as follows:

- Inbound J-1 Programs
- Inbound F-1 Programs
- Outbound Programs

\*CSIET certification entitles an organization to publicize the fact that its program is conducted in accordance with the published standards. Further, certified organizations are entitled to use the CSIET certification mark during the period it is listed in the publication in accordance with CSIET policy (see attached "CSIET Trademark Policy" document).

\*CSIET certification does not entitle an organization to paid promotional opportunities (*Weblinks, Direct Connect, Flyers, Stickers, etc.*). These opportunities will be available for purchase after the full 2018-2019 evaluation cycle is complete, at the end of March 2019. You then will receive a specific communication about promotional opportunities from our Director of Marketing & Communications, Charissa Slack. Promotional opportunities purchased after March 2018 (last year) will continue to be honored and will remain active on our websites until we update them in May 2019.

2018-19 Review Process

Programs were judged based on the following J-1 Requirements for CSIET Certification:

1. Programs must be paid CSIET Members;
2. Programs must complete the appropriate Application for Certification and pay the associated application fees;
3. Programs must be bona fide Department of State designees, but cannot be a school/school district so designated by the Department of State;
4. Programs must inform CSIET if they: a. cease operation; b. merge with or become acquired by another organization; c. have/received sanctions by the U.S. Department of State (including but not limited to letter of reprimand, probation, suspension, and/or forms reduction);





**United States Department of State**

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

*www.state.gov*

April 12, 2016

Ms. Keri Dooley  
Chief Government Relations  
and Sponsored Programs Officer  
AFS USA, Inc.  
120 Wall Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

Dear Ms. Dooley:

The U.S. Department of State is pleased to inform you that **AFS USA, Inc.** is re-designated as a sponsor of an exchange visitor program in accordance with the administrative regulations issued under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-256, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act). The program is identified as Exchange Visitor Program No. **P-3-00033**. This number is to be used in all communications to identify the program to the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security. The following information is provided to assist you in the administration of your program:

**Approved Category on Form DS-2019:** Student, Secondary  
**Annual Report Due Date:** Academic Year—July 31 annually  
**Placement Report Due Date:** August 31 and January 15  
**Change of Placement Report Due Date:** July 31

The sponsor of an exchange visitor program is contributing to educational and cultural exchange as authorized by the Fulbright-Hays Act, the objective of which is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries and to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and other nations. This objective is best met by ensuring that participants in the exchange visitor program return abroad to exercise the skills and knowledge acquired in the United States thereby strengthening the ties and communications that unite us with the other nations of the world.

In addition, reciprocity is an integral component of the exchange visitor program and sponsors are required to make every effort to achieve the fullest possible reciprocity [22 CFR 62.8(c)]. Given this objective, many participants in any exchange visitor program may be subject to the provisions of Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. For further details, see Section 22 CFR 41.63.

You are listed in the Department's records as the Responsible Officer (RO). **Ms. Julie Anne Ball, Ms. Kristen Bates, Ms. Stephanie Cashmore, Mr. Ian Crovisier, Mr. Jonathan McClelland, Ms. Amanda Rosen, Ms. Keiko Tamura, Ms. Sarah Tice, Ms. Rosemarie Vibar, and Ms. Robin Weber** are listed as the Alternate Responsible Officers (AROs) for this program. The RO and AROs are the only officials authorized to sign the issued Form DS-2019. These

5. Programs that have received a greater sanction (suspension of program, loss of designation, a reduction of more than 15% of forms) by the Department of State in the year since the previous Certification will be subject to further review by the CSIET Accreditation Committee;
6. Programs that have outstanding/pending/unresolved complaints with CSIET will be subject to further review by the CSIET Accreditation Committee;
7. Programs must reaffirm their commitment to CSIET Standards every year and comply with CSIET Standards and Department of State regulations;
8. Programs that did not meet one or more of the requirements in the previous cycle must submit a management response addressing each deficiency and any corrective action taken to remedy that issue in order to receive a Full Certification in the *2019-2020 Advisory List*;
9. Programs that received a Conditional Certification in the previous cycle must meet all requirements in the current cycle to receive a Full Certification. If a program with a previous cycle Conditional Certification does not meet the requirements in the current cycle, it will be excluded from the *Advisory List*. Any program that has not submitted a management response that meets the review of the Accreditation Committee will be subject to further review and may be excluded from the *Advisory List*.

\*Newly applied J-1 organizations will be issued a Provisional Certification provided that they meet all the above criteria. Provisionally certified organizations must earn the Provisional Certification for a period of two evaluation cycles in order to be eligible for a Full Certification. Provisionally certified organizations can reduce this period to one evaluation cycle by attending required training sessions at the CSIET Annual Conference. Contact the CSIET offices for more information.

Congratulations on your new certification! Thank you for your support of CSIET and its mission. Your cooperation in this voluntary process, your demonstrated compliance with the Standards, and your professionalism and goodwill throughout the process are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Christopher B. Page  
Executive Director

Township of Union Schools K-12



Nicole Ahern &lt;nahern@twpunionschools.org&gt;

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**Re: PAF Forms - Need to be signed by school so the student will be able to arrive prior to the start date of school.**

1 message

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Nicole Ahern <nahern@twpunionschools.org>  
To: Julia Vicidomini <jvicidomini@twpunionschools.org>  
Cc: Marien Parsons <mparsons@afsusa.org>

Fri, Jul 26, 2019 at 9:26 AM

Good morning!

As discussed via phone, the Superintendent needs to place this onto the Board Agenda for approval on the 20th. Ms. Parsons indicated she would be reaching out to the host family.

We will be in contact after the board meeting. Should any additional questions arise, please let us know.

Thank you!

Nicole Ahern

On Thu, Jul 25, 2019 at 7:11 PM Julia Vicidomini <jvicidomini@twpunionschools.org> wrote:  
Unfortunately, I don't think we will be able to sign this document until we have board approval.

On Thu, Jul 25, 2019 at 3:34 PM Marien Parsons <mparsons@afsusa.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

I am sending the attached PAF forms to see if they can be signed, so that we can have the students arrive in time to start school on the first day.

I noted on each form that the final approval will be pending until the school board meets on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please call me if you have any questions, I did send the same information to Nicole Ahern, but have not heard back from her as of now, and I was worried that she may be on a vacation day so she may not have seen my email. I will copy her on this email also.

Thank you,

*Marien Parsons**Assistant Team Development Specialist**East 3 Teams**Email: mparsons@afsusa.org**phone: 646.381.3370*

individuals are also the only officials with whom this office conducts business regarding this program. All communications originating from this program must be submitted and signed by the RO or the AROs.

22 CFR Part 62.11 of the Department's administrative regulations outlines the duties of the Responsible Officer. These regulations also apply to the Alternate Responsible Officers, who assist the RO in the administration of the Program. The RO is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Program is administered according to the Department's regulations and the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Some of the duties are:

- a) training and supervision of the Alternate Responsible Officer(s);
- b) ensuring that Forms DS-2019 are issued responsibly;
- c) ensuring that Forms DS-2019 are signed in blue ink;
- d) ensuring that the SEVIS Sponsor Profile is updated to reflect any changes in address, telephone number, fax number, and email addresses of RO and ARO(s);
- e) validating the arrival and participation of each exchange visitor in your program;
- f) requiring that all exchange visitors have health/accident insurance for themselves and any dependents;
- g) ensuring that an exchange visitor's stay in the U.S. does not exceed the set time limit for his/her category; and
- h) meeting all requirements set forth in the Exchange Visitor Program regulations, such as submitting an annual report.

Please read and acquaint yourself with the regulations governing the Exchange Visitor Program and your facilitation of exchange activities. The Exchange Visitor Program Code of Federal Regulations, SEVIS User Manuals (two volumes), and Department Guidance Directives are available from our website at <http://i1visa.state.gov>. It is important that you take the time to read these documents. If you have any questions, please call the Office of Designation, Private Sector Programs Division, at 844-300-1824.

Your designation has been extended for a period of two years from the most recent date of re-designation noted in SEVIS. You are responsible for applying for re-designation no more than six months and no fewer than three months before the designation expiration date [22 CFR §62.7(a)]. Designation as a sponsor does not imply approval, sponsorship or promotion of your organization by the U.S. Government and should not be so implied in advertisements, business cards, websites, etc.

Thank you for your interest in and support of international educational and cultural exchange.

Sincerely,



G.K. Saba  
Director, Policy & Program Support  
for Private Sector Exchange

8/14/2019

Township of Union Schools Mail - Re: PAF Forms - Need to be signed by school so the student will be able to arrive prior to the start date...

***Become a Host Family and #passpeaceforward***

***Find out more at [www.afsusa.org](http://www.afsusa.org)***

*AFS National Headquarters:*

*120 Wall Street, 4th Floor*

*New York, NY 10005*

*AFS USA Mission*

*AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.*

--  
Julia Vicidomini

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Nicole Ahern  
Supervisor of Counseling, Township of Union Schools  
[nahern@twpunionschools.org](mailto:nahern@twpunionschools.org)  
(908) 851-6814

Policy # not residents