

Disclaimer and Acknowledgement

For the student - family matching exercise, all families and all students are fictional.

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for giving permission to use their applications (greatly modified).

Student - Family Matching Workshop

Community, AT, and Chapter Considerations

- Where we are in the hosting cycle
- The Big Four quotas
- Chapter diversity
- Geography re Sponsored Programs
- Community Safety

School Considerations

- Requirements for English proficiency, academic standing, grad/non-grad
- Diversity of the class of exchange students
- Timing - the race to the counseling office

Family Considerations

- Economic Class
- Educational Expectations
- Personality and Energy Level
- Hobbies and Interests



The goals:

We want to place all our students. We want all our students and all our families to have good experiences.

Some characteristics are essential:

for this family, the student must be a vegetarian - can't have the student eating his host brothers and host sisters - and a swimmer.

Some characteristics are non-essentials:

two legs and wing or four legs and no wing, doesn't matter. Student doesn't need to fly because the host siblings can't fly yet.

Which characteristics are essential and which characteristics are non-essential depend on the family, the school, the community. It is different with each placement.

Glossary of Hosting Terms

Area Team Assigned

“Area Team Assigned” is a placement status that occurs when staff selects a student specifically for one area team to look at. It usually occurs in response to a “Wish List” from the area team. When a student is in ATA status, only staff and the volunteers in that area team can view the student’s application.

Big Four

The four countries who send the largest number of students to the U.S. In decreasing order they are: Germany, Thailand, Italy, and Japan. In the Great Lakes Region, area teams are asked to place a proportion number of the Big Four countries. Example: In 2006, 15.4% of all students coming to the United States were from Germany, 10.4% were from Thailand, 10.0% were from Italy, and 7.4% were from Japan. An area team with a hosting commitment of 40 students was asked to place 6 Germans, 4 Thais, 4 Italians, and 3 Japanese.

CB

One of three major Sponsored Programs. CB is “Congress-Bundestag,” a jointly-funded program in which the German Bundestag provides scholarships to send Germans to the U.S. and the U.S. Congress provides scholarships to send Americans to Germany. The other two major Sponsored Programs are FLEX and YES.

Community Placed

“Community Placed” is a placement status that occurs when Generic Area Team makes a commitment to find a family for a specific student. That student is community placed in Generic Area Team and is reserved for Generic Area Team. Volunteers outside Generic Area Team can not place the student without Generic giving permission.

CSIET

It is not Crime Scene Investigators for Extra Terrestrials, but the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. CSIET is the accrediting body that “lists” exchange programs as operating per governmental and CSIET requirements.

Double Placement

Putting two exchange students in one host family. Requires permission from both natural families and the U.S. state department. Students must not have the same native language.

Family Placed

“Family Placed” is a placement status that occurs when a student has a family and all paperwork on the family ... application, criminal background check, references ... are in to the AFS Info Center in Portland, Oregon and the host family application has been mailed to the sending partner country.

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FLEX

One of three major Sponsored Programs. FLEX stands for “Future Leaders EXchange.” It is funded by the U.S. Congress and is a scholarship for outstanding students in the 18 countries that were created when the Soviet Union fell apart. The intent is to help form friendships with what are described as “the emerging republics.” The other two major Sponsored Programs are CB and YES.

Hosting and Sending Matrix

Every year, AFS-USA negotiates with our partners something called the hosting matrix. The hosting matrix is a list of corresponding promises. It consists of a list of countries and numbers of students that 1) our partner countries promise to find to send to the U.S. and 2) that we promise to find families for.

In addition to the hosting matrix, there is a sending matrix ... a list of corresponding promises by AFS-USA to find students to send to our partners and promises by our partners to find host families for the students we send.

Nationally Available

“Nationally Available” means that a student (or a teacher) application can be seen (and requested) by volunteers across all regions of the United States.

Nationally Available is usually used for teacher placements and for special student situations that require a wider distribution of the student application to place the student.

On Hold

“On Hold” is a placement status that occurs when an area team has requested a hold of a student. Usually this occurs when a team isn’t ready to make a commitment to find a family for the student (not ready for Community Placed), but has a family looking seriously at the student. Holds automatically stop and the student falls into Regionally Available when the hold expires. In the early part of the hosting season, holds are for 5 business days. Later in the seasons, holds are reduced to 3 business days.

Placed without Papers

“Placed without Papers” is a placement status that occurs when a family has decided to host a student, the school has accepted the student, but not all the host family paperwork has reached and been processed by the AFS Info Center in Portland, Oregon.

Regionally Available

“Regionally Available” means that a student application can be seen and requested by volunteers all across the region.

School Placed

“School Placed” means that the student has been accepted by a school, pending finding a host family in that school’s district. This placement status is used primarily for schools that require that student applications are approved before the student is shown to families in their area.

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Special Family Circumstances

There are certain special family circumstances that require additional approvals before the placement is completed.

Special Circumstances:	Double Hosted Student Placement	Same Sex Family Placement	Single Parent without Children	Handicapped Host Family **	Single Father with Children
Host Family	Double Placement form completed	None	None	None	none
Natural Family (parents of hosted student)	Written and signed acceptance letter (from both sets of parents, naming the other student and country of origin.)	Consent to placement (prior to placement) through AFS partner office via email with hosting staff.	Consent to placement (prior to placement) through AFS partner office via email with hosting staff.	Consent to placement (prior to placement) through AFS partner office via email with hosting staff.	Consent to placement (prior to placement) through AFS partner office via email with hosting staff.
Hosted Student	Written and signed acceptance letter (from both students, naming the other student and country of origin.)	Consent to placement (prior to placement) through AFS partner office via email with hosting staff.	Consent to placement (prior to placement) through AFS partner office via email with hosting staff.	Consent to placement (prior to placement) through AFS partner office via email with hosting staff.	Consent to placement (prior to placement) through AFS partner office via email with hosting staff.
High School	Signed PAF by August 1 and Double Placement letter on letterhead naming: both students, countries, and host family.	Signed PAF by August 1	Signed PAF by August 1.	Signed PAF by August 1	Signed PAF by August 1.

** "Disability" means, with respect to an individual: a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities; a record of such impairment; or being regarded as having such impairment.

SH / NH

SH stands for Southern Hemisphere. In AFS usage, it really means students who begin their exchange January.

NH stands for Northern Hemisphere. In AFS usage, it means students who begin their exchange in August.

Use of Southern Hemisphere (SH) and Northern Hemisphere (NH) doesn't seem to make sense when you know that some of our January Arrivals are from Austria and some of our August Arrivals are from Brazil.

The terms arose because at one time federal regulations required that all year program students coming to the U.S. to have their exchange on the U.S. academic year (August - June). The regulation didn't apply to semester programs, only year programs.

Student - Family Matching Workshop

An exception in the law allowed students to come on a calendar year (January - December) if the students were from countries in the southern hemisphere who operated their schools on a calendar year (because their seasons are reversed relative to the northern hemisphere).

So, historically, students coming to the U.S. in January have been mostly from the southern hemisphere, and those from the northern hemisphere have been semester program students.

Sponsored Programs

Programs in which some entity other than the student or the student's natural family has paid the AFS tuition for the student to come to the U.S. on an exchange. Usually, the scholarship has certain activity requirements that the students must fulfill during their exchange. The three major Sponsored Programs for students are CB, FLEX, and YES. The Cargill scholarships, the DeWitt Wallace scholarships, and other external to AFS scholarship programs are also considered Sponsored Programs. In addition, our Visiting Teacher program is a Sponsored Program.

USIA / State Department

USIA stands for the United States Information Agency. USIA is a now-defunct agency of the United States government which had responsibility for regulating exchange programs. Although USIA no longer exists, the regulations affecting exchange programs are still often described as "USIA regs." The regulations are predominately found in Title 22 Foreign Relations, Part 62 Exchange Visitor Program, SubPart B Specific Program Provisions, Section 25 Secondary school students. 22 CFR 62.25.

Responsibility for regulating exchange programs now resides with the U.S. State Department.

Welcome Family

A Welcome Family is a family who has agreed to host a year or semester student for a limited period at the beginning of their exchange, typically 4-6 weeks. This is done to give the volunteers additional time after arrival to find a family for the student.

Withdrawn / Rejected

"Withdrawn / Rejected" status normally means that the student changed his or her mind about being an exchange student after the student's application was distributed on AFS-on-Line. In some cases, a student is rejected by AFS-USA as being unqualified for an exchange in the U.S.

YES

One of three major Sponsored Programs. YES stands for "Youth Exchange and Study." It is funded by the U.S. Congress and is a scholarship for outstanding students in countries which have significant Muslim populations. The intent is to help create a better understanding of how nice the United States is in the Muslim world. The other two major Sponsored Programs are CB and FLEX.