



United States Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20522

Spring 2019

Dear School Administrator,

Thank you for considering the enrollment of a U.S. government-sponsored international exchange student at your school through one of the following U.S. Department of State programs:

- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (**CBYX**), for students from Germany
- Future Leaders Exchange (**FLEX**), for students from Eastern Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia
- Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (**YES**), for students predominantly from Africa, Southeast Europe, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia

Each year, more than 2,000 students from more than 50 different countries come to United States high schools through U.S. Department of State programs. Hosting one or more of these students is a great way for your school to play a part in our country's public diplomacy.

Exchange participants are selected through a highly competitive, merit-based process: thousands apply for each place, and those selected are carefully screened and vetted. As with all exchange visitors, the students' visa applications go through the U.S. embassies' thorough consular review process. Due to our comprehensive process, these participants generally have above-average scholastic achievements and English skills.

Students live with an American host family, which helps students integrate into a new community. Local support representatives also help students find community service opportunities, and they serve as points of contact for you and your teachers.

As you consider accepting an international exchange participant into your student body, we hope you will also help connect your American students to the U.S. government's scholarship programs, which offer high school students a chance to live and study abroad. Program information can be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth>.

Thank you again for considering this opportunity. Through classroom discussions and personal interaction alike, everyone involved will be enriched.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ogburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Ogburn
Director, Office of Citizen Exchanges

Implementing Partners: American Cultural Exchange Service, AFS USA, AIFS/AYA, American Councils, Aspect Foundation, ASSE, Ayusa, Borderless Friends Forever, Greenheart Exchange, Council on International Educational Exchange, Iowa Resource for International Service, Northwest Services Inc., Program of Academic Exchange, States 4-H, STS Foundation, World Link, and Youth for Understanding USA