

Stewardship

The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) evaluates high school exchange programs to provide safe and valuable international exchange experiences. CSIET conducts its annual evaluation based on CSIET's Standards of Excellence. CSIET Certified Youth Exchange Programs provide schools with a concrete means to increase diversity, strengthen instruction, and build programs that imbue students with global competence. Schools that leverage inbound and outbound Youth Exchange are not confined by traditional curricular constructs, but rather, they are empowered by their desire to teach students to navigate the challenges of an increasingly global society. These 21st century schools are well-equipped to sustain themselves as viable places of learning.

CSIET programs also advance the educational value of U.S. high schools. In many public schools across the nation, at least 1% of a given school's enrollment comprises exchange students. To achieve this goal, CSIET has collaborated with exchange program representatives and school officials to develop helpful resources and tools on how to run and maintain successful exchange programs.

Transparency

To help ensure a successful program, you may want to consider developing a Youth Exchange Policy. Having a transparent policy in place is extremely useful when questions or challenges arise. To help your constituents understand that your school follows CSIET's commonly accepted Standards of Excellence, feel free to use CSIET's Model School Practices for J-1 Student Exchange as you build your own guidelines.

Common questions you will want to answer are:

- How many exchange students should our school host annually?
- Will exchange students receive school credit for their studies?
- What regulations exist to protect students and schools?
- What does the acceptance and enrollment process entail?

These are just a few of the important items you will want to address. If you would like to discuss your plan with schools who already have certified programs in place, CSIET would be happy to put you in contact with a representative.

Engagement

CSIET has developed school resources to ease the process of hosting and to make it rewarding. CSIET and a committee of school representatives developed the Model School Practices for J-1 Student Exchange for you to use as a template when creating your own youth exchange policy. The Model School Practices for J-1 Student Exchange covers procedures that you should use when working with exchange organizations; it outlines best practices to ensure a successful exchange program. A similar policy was created for outbound exchange.

CSIET also has an ongoing Database of State Policies. We have organized this resource by state and have included links to state level policies pertaining to youth exchange. As a school, district or a program representative, you can use the Database of State Policies to learn how exchanges are conducted in your area. If your school already has an exchange policy and it is not included in the database, please contact mailbox@csiet.org.

Partnership

CSIET's Program Finder is a search tool for schools interested in hosting exchange students. It is also a great resource for educating students about certified exchange programs. This search engine narrows the full list of CSIET Approved Programs and identifies them according to criteria that you choose. After outlining what you are seeking in a program, the search engine matches your preferences with a list of programs and corresponding websites that meet your needs.

Earn Recognition. As you establish a thriving exchange program at your school, connect with CSIET and the youth exchange community. CSIET is recognized as the standard-setting organization for secondary school exchange and serves as the connection between exchange programs and schools. Give your students, your school and your community confidence by partnering with CSIET and its member programs as you embark on the rewarding experience of youth exchange.