

MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4

INFORMATION FOR HOST PARENT ENROLLING A FOREIGN STUDENT WHO REQUIRES AN I-20

It is necessary for the host parent to obtain written permission from the principal of the receiving school, prior to enrollment, stating the school will admit the student. Schools must consider the capacity of the school and grade level before admitting students who are not residents of the district.

Federal Law IIRA (Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act) prohibits foreign students who have F-1 student status from attending public elementary schools (grades K through 8) or publicly-funded adult education programs. This law limits their attendance in public secondary schools (grades 9 through 12) to a maximum of 12 months.

If the foreign student wishes to attend a district school outside the attendance area of the host parent's residence, the district procedures for open enrollment must be followed. See Administrative Regulation JC-R: School Admissions (Open Enrollment).

After obtaining permission from the principal, the host parent may request that the district issue an I-20 (Federal Immigration and Naturalization document). All I-20 students are tuition-paying students. Federal law requires all I-20 students to reimburse public secondary schools for the full unsubsidized per capita cost of education for the intended period of study. The following information about the foreign student is needed to complete the I-20: correct spelling of the full name as it appears on the student's birth certificate, date of birth, country of citizenship, country of birth, address in the current country of residence, name and address of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), address in the United States where the student will live as well as a phone number and name and relation of the person the student will be living with. A copy of the student's current passport and payment of tuition are also needed.

Tuition is paid in full at the time the host parent picks up the I-20 document. The host parent is responsible for getting the I-20 to the foreign student. Signatures by the parent/guardian living in the foreign country and by the student are required on the I-20. Once signed, the student should take the I-20 to the American Consul in the student's country of citizenship, along with the student's passport, to obtain the student visa.

The I-20 is issued for a maximum of 12 months. If the foreign student wishes to depart and re-enter the United States over the summer or during holiday breaks, the student copy of the I-20 must be signed by the designated school official to allow re-entry into the United States. These guidelines include students crossing the Mexico or Canada borders.

Guardianship does not change the residency of an F-1 student. Host parents can go through Superior Court for guardianship, but that does not change the status of an F-1 student. Only the Immigration and Naturalization Department can change a non-immigrant's status.

Please visit <http://www.mpsaz.org/finance/fsguidelines> for further information concerning the proper procedures to be followed when enrolling a foreign student, or contact Financial Services at 480-472-0119.