

Foreign Exchange Students

James Island Charter High School ("JICHHS") believes that participation in a well-planned and executed program of foreign exchange students can be a worthwhile cultural experience for the students involved and for the community at large. However, as a South Carolina charter school and a participant in the Charleston County School District ("CCSD") School Choice program, JICHHS cannot guarantee enrollment. As a conversion charter school, JICHHS must enroll all students within the CCSD District 3 attendance zone pursuant to Section 59-40-100(C). Students applying outside of the zone must apply through the CCSD School Choice process in accordance with CCSD Policy and be accepted through a lottery in accordance with S.C. Code Section 59-40-50(B)(7) unless allowed enrollment through another applicable statutory priority.

In accordance with CCSD Policy and the South Carolina Charter Schools Act of 1996, as amended, foreign exchange students must have a J-1 or J-2 visa to attend JICHHS. No other visas are accepted. JICHHS administration is not authorized to issue or sign the I-20 form for all other visa classifications.

Students with J-1 Visas (Exchange Students)

A J-1 student is a foreign student who has been selected by a sponsor designated by the U.S. Department of State to participate in an exchange visitor program in the United States. J-1 students will not be required to pay tuition.

Students with J-2 Visas (Exchange Students)

A J-2 student is a foreign student who is the spouse or qualifying child of a J-1 student. J-2 students will not be required to pay tuition.

To attend JICHHS, a foreign exchange student must be designated by CCSD as within the CCSD District 3 attendance zone. Those students not designated as within the JICHHS priority attendance zone who do not fall within another applicable statutory priority need to follow the CCSD School Choice procedure, unless CCSD policy mandates otherwise, and can only be enrolled in JICHHS through lottery acceptance as required by S.C. Code Section 59-40-50(B)(7). JICHHS will not accept more than five (5) exchange students for attendance at JICHHS in any given school year.

The exchange student must meet all academic, attendance, and student discipline requirements as required of students enrolled in JICHHS, including the requirement that the student cannot be enrolled if he/she has completed high school.

JICHHS, based on the limited time exchange students spend in a particular school, will not award high school diplomas to these students. All credits for courses taken by exchange students will need to be evaluated by the student's home school as to whether it applies towards their graduation requirements.

Please refer to **CCSD Policy AR JFAB-R Admission of Nonresident Students** for the specifics of applying and enrolling as a Foreign Exchange Student through the Charleston County School District.

JICHHS will follow all applicable laws and appropriate CCSD policy. Anything in this policy contrary to the South Carolina Charter Schools Act of 1996, as amended, other applicable law or CCSD policy will be void.