

4/8/2020



Ohio High School Athletic Association  
4080 Roselea Place  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
Phone (614) 267-2502  
Fax (614) 267-1677  
Website [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

TO: OHSAA MEMBER HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS  
FROM: ROXANNE PRICE, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF COMPLIANCE  
RE: INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS – **J-1 VISA**

This memo is to provide OHSAA member high schools information regarding the eligibility of international exchange students on a J-1 Visa for interscholastic athletics. **This form is not to be used for students with dual citizenship, students who are American citizens and their parents are non-citizens living outside of the country, or students on an F-1 Visa.**

The OHSAA does not require international exchange students to be a part of programs approved by the Council on Standards for International Education and Travel (CSIET). International exchange students must possess a J-1 Visa in order to be approved under exception 1, Bylaw 4-8-1. Students who possess a J-1 Visa acquire this Visa type as a result of being involved with an approved short-term visitor exchange program.

Included with this memo is a link <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/FEelig.pdf> to the **updated Request for Eligibility of International Exchange Student** form for the 2020-21 school year. This form needs to be completed and returned to the OHSAA, attention Molly Downard ([mdownard@ohsaa.org](mailto:mdownard@ohsaa.org)), for approval **prior** to an international exchange student becoming eligible under exception 1. Feel free to make additional copies of the form for your use. After receipt of an eligibility request, a review is completed, and forms are returned to Athletic Directors. **Please submit the request electronically as an attachment to an email.**

A reminder that OHSAA **Bylaw 4-8-1, exception 1**, states that an international exchange student is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a maximum of one school year (two semesters) provided the student complies with provisions of Bylaw 4, Student Eligibility (e.g. age, graduation, semester, etc.). The maximum duration of eligibility is one year. **International exchange students who do not possess a J-1 Visa are not eligible for interscholastic athletics at a member school under exception 1.** No more than five students who possess a J-1 Visa and who are from the **same** Visitor Exchange Program will be approved for interscholastic eligibility at any one school during a school year. Once the OHSAA has **approved** five J-1 Visa students from the **same** exchange program for the current school year, no more requests will be approved for students from that program.