

4372 GRADUATION POLICY FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS ON EDUCATIONAL VISAS (J-1 ONLY) *Draft

Revised: Oct 2022

I. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

The intent of the foreign exchange program for J-1 students is to provide a cultural and educational experience in an American high school for one year. Weber School District recognizes that a student's graduation is a culmination of years of planning and successful completion of state and district graduation requirements. Participation in the awarding of the diploma ceremony should be reserved for students who have met those requirements. J-1 students from foreign countries should have no expectation of graduation from district high schools. Sponsoring programs, host families, and other individuals may not advertise graduation from high school as an expectation for foreign exchange students.

II. POLICY

Students on a J-1 or F-1 visa, attending Weber School District for a one-year period through a foreign exchange program will not graduate with their co-hort.

III. PROCEDURES

A . The following are district standards to be implemented by each high school concerning participation in graduation ceremonies and the receipt of high school diplomas, including foreign students on J-1 and visas in the Weber County School District.

1. Students on J-1 Visas may study for one school year only.
2. Students will be placed based on available room at a given school.
3. No J-1 Foreign Exchange student will receive a Weber School District/High School Diploma as they are only here for one school year. This year is meant to be a cultural opportunity, not a graduation opportunity.
4. J-1 Foreign Exchange students may receive a Certificate of Completion for credits earned. They may be allowed to participate in special graduation activities with permission from School Administration. This does not include graduation ceremonies.
5. Agency and school district policies require foreign students on J-1 to provide transcripts or materials in English. Transcripts must include course titles, course descriptions, grades and credit issued, course length or duration, date credits were issued, grade levels completed, and credit equivalences. The Utah State Board of Education staff may act as a resource to district personnel in monitoring the adequacy of evaluations.