

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Office of the Superintendent

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SUBJECT: BULLETIN NO. 32  
ENROLLMENT OF NONCITIZEN STUDENTS  
IN SCHOOLS

DATE: August 4, 1997

DIVISION: Student Health and Human Services

APPROVED:  FRANCIS R. MAKANO, Deputy Superintendent

For further information, please call Agnes Moss, Counselor, Foreign Student Admissions Office, at (213) 743-3647.

This bulletin replaces Office of Associate Superintendent, School Operations Bulletin No. 41, dated November 5, 1990, and reflects changes in policy in accordance with new federal law regarding foreign students on F-1 visas.

I. BACKGROUND

On November 30, 1996, a federal law, "Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996," changed the requirements for the admission of foreign students on F-1 visas.

Noncitizen students who wish to apply for F-1 student visa status, and those who wish to transfer their student visa status to this District, should be referred to the Pupil Services Foreign Student Admissions Office (FSAO). As the designated official liaison between the District and the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), this office has exclusive authority to issue and sign INS documents.

II. NEW IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

The 1996 federal immigration law establishes restrictions on F-1 visa students as follows:

- A. Prohibits foreign students from obtaining F-1 visas to attend public elementary schools (K-8) or publicly funded adult education schools.
- B. Limits secondary students (9-12) to a maximum of one year of attendance at a public high school.

- C. "Tuition" is now required in order for F-1 students to attend public secondary schools.
  - 1. Tuition must be paid in advance of enrollment.
  - 2. All students on F-1 visas must apply for admission through the Foreign Student Admissions Office.
- D. Persons who enter on F-1 or B-2 visitor visas declare themselves to be nonresidents as a condition of entering the United States. A minor cannot enroll in a school on the basis of a visitor's visa.
- E. Students who obtained F-1 visa status before November 30, 1996, are not affected by this new law unless they leave the United States for any reason. If they do, they fall under the new law and all its requirements.

### III. IMMIGRATION TERMS RELATED TO STUDENTS

- A. An F-1 Visa Student is a citizen of another country who is in this country for the sole purpose of study. All students wishing to obtain an F-1 Visa must be referred to the FSAO before being allowed to enroll.
- B. A J-1 Exchange Student has come to the United States to study for a specific period of time under the sponsorship of a government-approved agency. These students must contact the FSAO and submit documents. The 1996 law does not affect J-1 visa students.
- C. A B-2 Visitor has entered the United States as a tourist, usually for a six-month period and is not approved by INS to attend school. A World Traveler (WT) enters the United States as a tourist, usually for a one-month period, and also may not enroll in school.
- D. Undocumented Aliens are noncitizens who have entered the United States without benefit of passport, visa, or other papers to establish their immigration status in this country.
- E. A Refugee, also known as parolee or evacuee, is a person who seeks admission to the United States because he or she is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country due to actual or well-founded perception of persecution there. A person seeking Asylum is one who applies for refugee status from within this country or at a port of entry. These students need not be referred to the FSAO.
- F. Dependents of diplomats, government employees (A-2), or temporary workers (H-1) are other types of nonimmigrant students who may enroll at District schools. No referral to the FSAO is necessary for these students.

- G. An Immigrant or Permanent Resident is a citizen of another country who has been granted permanent residence in the United States. He or she will have an Alien Registration Card or "green card." No referral to the FSAO is required.

#### IV. PERTINENT IMMIGRATION-RELATED DOCUMENTS

- A. A Passport is the document issued by a person's country of citizenship which identifies the holder as a citizen and permits that person to travel abroad under the protection of that country.
- B. A Visa is authorization granted by one country for the admission of a foreign citizen. The Visa will indicate the purpose and time for which the person may enter. The Visa usually will be found stamped on a page of the holder's passport.
- C. A Certificate of Eligibility, or I-20, is a document issued by a private school or public school district to a person who seeks a student visa. The I-20, which is required for obtaining an F-1 visa, informs the consul that the applicant is eligible to enroll in the designated school(s) as a student. Only the FSAO may issue and sign I-20s for the LAUSD.
- D. The Arrival/Departure Card, or I-94, is a small white card, usually inserted in or stapled to a passport, which states the holder's classification (e.g., F-1, B-2), gives the date and place of entry to the country, and the date of mandatory departure.

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