



The Value of International Exchange in a Covid World



Andrea Lundin (Regional Director) – Lauren Scherr (Field Manager)

What happened to exchange when the pandemic hit?

Some context.



What are the benefits of exchange to schools, and communities?

- Allowing enrollment of exchange students counts towards enrollment numbers for schools and helps to increase funding.
- Having exchange students increase a school district's cultural competency
- Promotes diversity and helps bridge cultural gaps
- American students then have the chance to practice a second language in a conversation context, with a native speaker.
- ICES offers outbound opportunities to American students, a Global Ambassador program, and college scholarships.
- Exchange students spend their money in local communities.



How do families benefit?

A picture is worth a thousand words.

- Families learn about the culture of another country
- The son or daughter gained is a son or daughter for life



A hiker in a dark jacket and hat stands on a rocky mountain trail, holding a walking stick. The background features a vast, hazy mountain range under a clear sky. The hiker is positioned on the right side of the frame, looking out over the landscape.

Further Reaching Benefits

[Article: The Hill - The Soft but Unmatched Power of US Foreign Exchange Programs](#)

How have schools responded?

MANY ARE MAKING FAST DECISIONS WITHOUT ALL THE INFORMATION

Smaller districts – Mostly still open to taking exchange students both last year and this year.

Primarily positive.

Larger districts – Many did not take ANY exchange students last year, and a good number have not reconsidered this year, why?



What does the Process Look Like?

Our Responsibilities

- Student applications are already on file and have the student's transcripts, English test, and medical records
- Once a qualified family chooses a student this is sent to the school
- Families enroll the student and fill out emergency card
- The Local Coordinator monitors student grades from month to month and provides support where needed
- Make ourselves available if student, family, or school ever has concerns or questions

School Responsibilities

- Sign the Highschool Acceptance Form
- Place students in appropriate classes (we provide list)
- Print transcripts at end of year
- We do not expect any extra services to be offered to our students (they do not need an ESL teacher, etc.)



Current Precautions

- Students being cleared by a physician prior to departing home country
- Students being Covid tested within 72 hours of departure
- Recommendation that students arrive at least 10 days prior to beginning of school for quarantine



Additional Possibilities



- If available (and required by schools) by fall, students will get vaccine
- Schools can request a quarantine period with the host family before student enters school
- Schools have the option of signing acceptance for students now, and voiding acceptance in July if conditions worsen in any way



THANK YOU

[HTTP://WWW.ICESUSA.ORG](http://www.icesusa.org)



 **ANDREA LUNDIN (RD)**
LAUREN SCHERR (FM)

 +1 (989) 289-8765
 +1 (906) 231-4852

 alundin@icesusa.org
 lscherr@icesusa.org