

2020-2021 PUBLIC SCHOOL FAQs

1. Can we choose the destination?

Yes, you can send us a list of your preferred location(s) and we can compare that to the available schools. Placement in the public school program is not an option at all public schools, so we may suggest alternative locations. You are welcome to ask about other areas that are not listed on the brochure. If we have availability in those areas, we will be glad to assist you.

2. What is the best time to arrive?

Arrival 2 to 3 days before school starts is recommended. During the application process, we will confirm the school start date and coordinate the schedule with you.

3. What does a typical host home look like?

It could be an individual free-standing home, a duplex, a townhouse, or an apartment. It will be clean, safe, and comfortable.

4. Do students have a private room?

Students participating in this program will have a bedroom with a bed, study desk, and internet access. It will be a private bedroom, unless agreed upon differently.

5. How many students are placed in a home?

Typically, the host family has one international student. In the event they are hosting more than one international student we will ensure that they don't speak the same first language.

6. Do families normally have children of a similar age?

Due to the difficulty of recruiting families that meet our high quality standards, we are not able to turn down families based on type and age of their household members. Our director will make every effort to focus on recruiting as many families with children as possible. It is not guaranteed that your student will be placed with a same-aged child. Each host will do their best to provide a positive and varied experience during the student's stay.

7. What details do we receive on the family?

You will receive a "homestay profile" with all basic information about the family, including: name of family members, address, e-mail, phone, their hobbies, pets and, additional information. The profile will include a family picture, a picture of the exterior of the house, and picture of the student bedroom.

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8. What does a typical host family look like?

The host families provided by AHLI are typical American households who come from a variety of racial, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Homestays may include families or a single host parent. AHLI does not make any guarantee about the race, wealth, age, marital status, or education level of our hosts. All AHLI homestays are with Christian hosts who will provide a safe, caring environment that will support the student personally and academically.

9. Are the students expected to attend church with the family?

The students will be included in the family activity schedule each weekend. Because the host family treats their students as a family member, they include them in activities, excursions, household chores, church, etc. We encourage the students to participate in and follow the family's schedule.

10. If the student is unhappy with their family, can they request a change? How long would this change take?

A full assessment of the situation / reasons will be conducted by our director and, if a replacement family is warranted, the director will relocate the student in a timely manner which minimizes the impact on the student and the hosts. For long-term placements, the change in host usually occurs at the semester break.

11. Do students have a local coordinator they can contact if they have a problem?

Yes, they will have a designated coordinator from AHLI who is available 24/7 and has at least one scheduled meeting with each student each month.

12. Are excursions included?

Typically, no, but if you are interested you can contact us for more information.

13. What is the average cost of the optional trip to another city?

It varies based on where the student is interested in visiting and the distance to that location from their homestay location.

14. If a participant chooses to ask for an optional day trip is this with the family or part of a group?

Everything is within the family unit.

15. What type of activities do the families normally involve the participants in?

The students will be included in the family activity schedule during program placement and it could include picnics, sports, parks, shopping trips, chores, church, etc.

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16. Are students allowed to go out alone?

Typically, younger students must have adult supervision. With older teens and adults, it's more flexible, as long as the host family is notified and agrees in advance of the outing. We try to encourage the students to do activities with their host families/children to get the most out of the experience while they are here.

17. Can I get a diploma? How many years can I stay?

Students who study in the U.S. using their U.S. passport can stay for multiple years and graduate as long as they meet the school graduation requirements through credits earned during study and/or with previous credits.

18. How long is the application process?

The application process requires the confirmed host family to register the student with the school. Students will not receive an admission acceptance letter. After confirmation of the host family, the application process can take 2 to 3 weeks, depending on the availability of the school officials.

19. Do the students receive any type of reports during the program?

Yes, they will receive monthly reports from their local AHLI coordinator. Additionally, they will receive copies of their school reports which can include: progress reports, report cards, and yearly transcripts. Each school's reporting process and timeline is unique to the school, so the student will receive the reports their school provides when they provide them.