

Host Family FAQ

- 1) *What do the international students eat? Will they eat American cuisine?*

For the most part, international students come to America to experience the diversity of its culture, so most students will eat American cuisine. However, some of the students might be timid to try certain foods at first. You might want to bring them to either an Asian grocery store or Chinese restaurant to satisfy their craving for meals from their homeland.

- 2) *Due to the time zone difference between America and China, when should the students contact their parents and how often?*

Most students might contact their families and friends very often when they first arrive. However, such contact should not disturb the student's regular sleeping hours. And the student should be considerate to everyone in the host family when making phone calls at night.

- 3) *How do the international students manage their money while in America?*

Usually the international students arrive in America with cash and/or a credit card. Also, some parents wire funds to the bank in which an account is opened for them. The student has the authority granted to them by their parents in China to use the money given in any way they see fit, as long as it does not break the laws within the United States (i.e. illegal drugs, alcohol, etc.)

- 4) *Should international students participate in extra-curricular activities?*

Yes, we encourage they do as activities can help them to integrate into the school and community better.

- 5) *Can international students travel to other locations within the U.S?*

Yes. International students must inform their host families when planning for a travel, be it a short term travel or a long vacation during the school year. If the student is to travel out of the town without the host family, he/she must provide information about who they travel with, where they are going, time of departure and return and transportation methods. Additional contact information should be provided if applicable. Host families should be aware of the student's whereabouts all the time; and students are responsible to notify their hosts about any change of plan or emergency. Ultimately, the host family has the right to give the permission of the trip and they are entitled to deny the trip for security or other concerns. The student is encouraged to work out a travel plan with the host family. They also need to complete and submit the *Permission to Travel/Day Trip* PEDUS so that PEDUS is aware of the student's whereabouts. If the student is to travel without any adult, then a signed permission from their parents is required prior to travel.

- 6) *How should the host family handle discipline/family rules?*

We recommend host families to consult PEDUS regarding family rules for international students. The rules include but not limited to: behavior and respect, chores, meal time, laundry and internet/electronic device usage and bed time. We strongly recommend host families announce the rules to the student and make sure they understand them when they arrive. Our local coordinators are happy to help the host family if the student has difficulties following the rules.

- 7) *When the International student is sick, do I have to take him/her to a specific doctor?*

We believe in your common sense and judgement when the student has sickness or symptoms; however, if the student needs professional medical care, please take them to medical services. A



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professional diagnose and treatment are paramount to the student's health and security, student's guardians are responsible to ensure they can receive appropriate medical treatment in time. Through PEDUS, the International student will have medical insurance. This insurance will allow you to seek advice and treatment from any medical professional. You will be given an insurance ID card. The physician's office might have a co-pay which the student can pay.

8) *What if the International student needs to see a dentist?*

The insurance that the student obtains from PEDUS has an accidental dental plan that covers issues related to injury of the teeth, but does not routine (cleaning) or issues with deterioration of the teeth (root canal or cavities). If the student needs dental work (cavity, root canal, etc.), the student will have to pay for the services out of pocket. He can go to any Dental specialist that is around the area in which the student resides.

9) *If the International student is struggling in his/her academic classes, who do I seek for help?*

PEDUS has an Academic Assistance program called "AAA" (Stands for After-school Academic Assistance). This program has bi-lingual teachers to assist the students with homework, studying for an assessment or preparing for a standardized test.

10) *What type of interaction/responsibility do I have in regard to the student's schooling?*

The school will know the host family as the guardian of the student in the U.S. Then, the school may provide you the login information to their online school system. We recommend you supervise the international student, and share the information with PEDUS.

11) *What are my responsibilities in regard to PEDUS?*

As a host parent, you are responsible to maintain a safe environment for the student, feed the student and assist the student with their studies. PEDUS will keep in contact with you over the phone once a month and visit you every semester. The host family is responsible to submit a monthly report by the 20th of each month. Since this report is a primary source of information for us and the student's parents to learn about the student's life here, we expect you to include details in the report, rather than just very short answers like 'yes' or 'no'.

12) *In the case of an emergency with the international student, who do I have to notify?*

In the case of an emergency, you need to handle the emergency with the appropriate professionals and then you need to let PEDUS local coordinator know when the emergency is under control. An emergency could be considered an injury, sickness, or accident, that involves the student in any way. Once we are aware of the emergency, we will notify the student's parents. If it is necessary for the student's parents to come to America, PEDUS will intervene as to the accommodations for the parents.

13) *Can the International student be left alone, and for how long?*

Yes. It is important to let your international student understand security restrictions when they are alone at home. The international student cannot spend the night alone at home.

14) *Can the International student spend overnight with another family?*

The student can spend the night at another family's home provided that there are adults who can supervise the student and their friend. Under no circumstances should the international student spend time at another family's residence without adult supervision.