Frequently Asked Questions about Hosting an Exchange Student with IRIS

**HOST FAMILY MAKEUP**
No two host families look the same!

**STUDENTS’ RELIGIONS**

- **Christianity**: 70%
- **Islam**: 6%
- **Other**: 24%

Our students practice from different faiths with varying degrees of devoutness. Hosting a student from a different religion or different denomination can be a fulfilling experience for the whole community. We encourage families to host students from a different religious background; this helps open up dialogues about religious differences and new perspectives and tolerance. It also allows your YES student to learn about shared values and qualities from a religion they aren’t familiar with—an important and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most of our students!

**WHY SHOULD I HOST WITH IRIS?**
IRIS is an Iowa-based non profit organization, serving Iowans and placing students with Iowa families. We believe working locally is in everyone’s best interest. All coordinators are within driving distance of our host families and students. IRIS has been a founding organization with the YES Program, selecting and placing international students in Iowa homes since 2004.

**HOW OLD ARE THE STUDENTS?**
All students are 15-18 years old during their time in the U.S.

**HOW DO I CHOOSE A STUDENT?**
IRIS will help you find the right student for your home, but the sooner you commit, the more options you will have!

**WILL STUDENTS SPEAK ENGLISH?**
**YES.** All YES students have passed oral and written English assessments.

**HOW ARE EXPENSES COVERED?**
Host families are volunteers and are not paid to host a student. However, all host families will receive $300 to cover school/activities fees and supplies. Students also receive $125/month to cover personal expenses. Students also have health insurance.

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