

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The board recognizes the value of student exchange programs and/or the hosting of qualified foreign students. Such programs may be approved when admission of an exchange student does not adversely impact the instructional program of the district. The superintendent is authorized to review and approve organizations which propose to offer a foreign/domestic travel-study program.

The superintendent is directed to develop procedures, including but not limited to: criteria for program sponsors, responsibilities of sponsors, enrollment standards, co-curricular participation, and graduation requirements.

Legal Reference:

RCW 28A.300.240
RCW 19.166

International Student Exchange
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Adoption Date:

Exchange Students

The following procedures shall be in effect:

Approval

- A. An organization which wishes to sponsor a foreign and/or domestic travel-study program shall submit a request which provides a complete program description, including the name, address, and telephone number of the local representative.
- B. Each request shall be reviewed by the appropriate building principal. Notification of approval or denial shall be issued in writing to the program representative not later than June 15th.
- C. Program sponsors shall pay for the student activity costs and/or fees as required by the district.
- D. Sponsoring agencies will provide necessary student tutorial help.
- E. All sponsoring organizations shall register with and meet the requirements of the State Secretary of State's office.
- F. The school will will accept a maximum of six exchange students in any one school per year. This requirement does not preclude groups of students from making short term visitations as part of cultural or other exchanges.
- G. Only one foreign exchange student per organization/family is permitted. If all six spaces are not filled, consideration will be given to a second eligible student from a host organization.
- H. Foreign exchange students must reside within the geographic boundaries of the Aberdeen School District or the family must have been accepted through Choice under the guidelines of Policy 3141, Nonresident Students.
- I. Criteria and expectations for foreign exchange programs shall follow guidelines as established in the Handbook of Foreign Study/Travel, published by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Operations

- A. A student placement agreement shall be established between the district and host family by June 1st and prior to departure by the student from his/her home. The student's cumulative records shall be forwarded to the district prior to the approval for admission.
- B. The sponsoring organization must provide the following:
 - 1. Foreign exchange students must have a TOEFL score of 400 or equivalent SLEP and provide a writing sample to be admitted to Aberdeen High School.
 - 2. Name, address and telephone number of the local program coordinator who shall provide for emergency, advisory, liaison and tutorial services to be paid for by organization.
 - 3. A transcript (translated into English) of the student's academic records.
 - 4. Certification that the student will receive adequate financial support for the duration of his/her stay in the district.
 - 5. Name, address and telephone number of the student's host family within the district.
 - 6. There must be a local representative of the exchange organization. This representative is responsible for moving the student if there are problems in either the host home or the school.
- C. Foreign exchange students shall not be included in any class ranking lists, nor shall a GPA be computed for them.
- D. Prior to enrollment, all students possessing a J-1 visa must present required paperwork (IAP-66-medical, transcript, host family information) to the school staff member designated to coordinate the exchange program.
- E. A foreign exchange student will be required to meet district requirements in order to be eligible to receive a certificate of completion. No foreign exchange student will graduate or receive a diploma from Aberdeen High School. Students are here for the cultural experience.
- F. A student is expected to comply with school policies and rules.

- G. Eligibility of foreign exchange students for participation in extra-curricular athletics, music, and forensics and other such activities, is determined by the rules and regulations of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association.
- H. If needed, tutorial assistance will be provided by hosting organization or family.
- I. Foreign exchange students are limited to a maximum of two semesters at Aberdeen High School.
- J. Foreign exchange students must maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) in every class by the end of the first semester to stay in the program.