

## **FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT POLICY**

The School Board encourages cultural diversity and welcomes the opportunity to host students from other nations. Students from many foreign lands can have fond memories from their high school experiences, which can have a very positive influence on both the school and community.

In order to provide the best possible experience for our exchange students and meet federal and state regulatory requirements, the following policy has been developed.

- All foreign exchange students must be sponsored by reputable and established agencies that specialize in placing students in American Secondary Schools.
- All foreign exchange students must have demonstrated English proficiency to the 6<sup>th</sup> level on the ACCESS exam. Proof of appropriate test results or a letter denoting English Language Proficiency Skills must be presented to the administration of the High School prior to formal acceptance.
- Placement of foreign exchange students rests entirely with the sponsoring agency and any placement issues, host family changes or transfers, and other issues arising from host family placement rests entirely with the sponsoring agency and not the school.
- Academic course selection will be made based upon the sponsoring agencies recommendations, exchange student input, academic transcript and record information, course availability, and class size considerations. Based on the needs of the school and student interest the director of guidance and principal reserve the right to amend, change, or alter student schedules.
- Foreign exchange students who reach SENIOR class standing, who have attended the school for:
  - One or two years will be allowed to participate in graduation activities and exercises. Those students who march at graduation will be presented with a certificate of attendance rather than a high school diploma.
  - Three or more years will be allowed to participate in graduation activities and exercises. These students who march at graduation will be presented a high school diploma and be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian status.
- The guidance department will offer all traditional counseling and guidance services provided to all other students regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, or nation of origin. However, the sponsoring agency will assume all responsibility for securing Visas, Work permits, Specialized College Board Tests, International Student College Applications, and any other state, federal, or international requirements pertaining to any foreign exchange student's decision to remain in the United States to work or attend college.

- All traditional fees associated with any tests, field trips, graduation activities, commencement fees, class organization dues, and other traditional school related expenses not normally incurred by the school will either be paid by the exchange student, his or her host family, or the sponsoring agency.
- A free or reduced lunch will be provided to the exchange student only if he or she has been placed with a host family that qualifies for such under state guidelines.
- All foreign exchange agreements with sponsoring agencies will be recognized as “At Will” agreements. Should the agreement no longer be mutually in the best interests of the student or the school, the principal may make a recommendation for dissolution. Decisions may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools and said determination shall be final. Any expenses associated with a termination of agreement rest entirely with the sponsoring agency.
- All school policies, rules, regulations, and academic & extracurricular standards required of traditional students at will also apply to foreign exchange students. However, traditional graduation requirements will be waived or altered based upon course recommendations made by the sponsoring agency, as well as the unique needs of the student.
- Foreign exchange students desiring to participate in athletics while attending school must meet the international student guidelines established by the Maine Principal’s Association. The athletic director will have the final decision making authority in athletic eligibility determination.

Reviewed: February 10, 2010

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: March 9, 2010

Adoption: April 6, 2010

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: August 17, 2010

Adoption: August 31, 2010