

HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: FOREIGN EXCHANGE
STUDENTS

ADOPTED: March 23, 2015

REVISED:

239. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS	
1. Purpose	In order to promote cultural awareness and understanding and to provide diverse experiences to district students, the Board shall admit foreign exchange students into district schools.
2. Authority	<p>The Board shall accept foreign exchange students who meet the established guidelines for admission to district schools.</p> <p>The Board shall accept exchange students on a J-1 Visa who reside within the district as participants in group-sponsored exchange programs approved by the Board. Exchange students on a J-1 Visa shall not be required to pay tuition.</p> <p>The Board shall accept privately sponsored exchange students on an F-1 Visa for attendance only in secondary schools upon payment of tuition at the established district rate; tuition payments may not be waived. The period of attendance shall not exceed twelve (12) months.</p> <p>The Board reserves the right to limit the number of foreign exchange students admitted to the schools based on space availability and qualifying criteria.</p>
3. Delegation of Responsibility	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for determining the visa status and eligibility of foreign exchange students applying for admission to district schools and recommending admission of students to the Board.</p> <p>All potential organizations or individuals applying for admission shall forward the request to the Superintendent or designee by August 1 preceding the school year of attendance.</p>
4. Guidelines Pol. 203	Foreign exchange students shall comply with all immunization requirements for students. Once admitted, all exchange students shall be subject to all Board policies and administrative regulations and rules governing all district students.

Admission of foreign exchange students shall be subject to the following guidelines:

1. Students shall be at least sixteen (16) years of age and shall be sufficiently fluent in English.
2. Students may not be a graduate of their native school system.
3. Students will be considered for admittance on a space available basis.
4. Resident host families shall submit a statement accepting responsibility for the student and verifying they are serving as a volunteer host without personal profit.
5. Exchange students shall be encouraged to participate in all student activities and athletics, provided eligibility criteria are met.
6. Exchange students are not eligible to receive a high school diploma but may be awarded an honorary diploma.

If an exchange student moves to a residence outside of the school district, s/he shall not be permitted to continue attending district schools.

District Students Enrolled In A Foreign Exchange Program

Whenever a district student elects to attend school in a foreign country for a specified school year, s/he may elect one (1) of the options available:

1. The student may, at his/her own request and with parental approval, receive no credit for the school year in which s/he is absent and be reinstated the school term in which s/he returns to the home school in the grade to which he was assigned for the ensuing school term.
2. Upon presentation of a transcript from the foreign school which the student attended, an evaluation of credits will be made and credited on the student's permanent record. The high school principal shall make a determination as to the student's eligibility for promotion or graduation.

References:

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.74

Immigration and Naturalization – 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1101

Exchange Visitor Programs – Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations – 22 CFR
Part 62

Board Policy – 203