

The Board of Education will accept students from other nations who come to the system via exchange programs officially recognized by the Board. The students may be enrolled within the school system subject to the following requirements, rules and regulations:

1. The Board of Education recognizes the exchange programs as listed by the *Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs* published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. The list is available in the office of the Superintendent.
2. Other exchange programs not recognized by the Advisory List may also be approved provided the principal of the receiving school makes the following inquiries and reports findings to the Superintendent with request for approval. The principal shall solicit the following information from the exchange organization's local representative.
 - A. Identify the organization bearing legal responsibility.
 - B. Determine whether the organization has an official base in the United States that would be legally responsible in the event complications occur that require legal action.
 - C. Investigate the organization by:
 - reading advertisements;
 - verifying how long the organization has been involved with the exchange program;
 - corresponding with educators or advisers named in the advertisement;
 - making personal contact with the local representative of the organization.
 - D. Study the organization's financial structure to determine non-profit status.
 - E. Determine that the organization complies with the standards in the U.S. Department of State J1 Visa regulations and has the authority to issue DS 2019 forms.
3. All foreign exchange students must meet the following entrance criteria. The student must:

- A. Be able to speak and understand the English language with a proficiency level that would not impede regular classroom instruction to be determined by a satisfactory score on an approved exam such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL);
 - B. Be able to read and write the English language with a proficiency level that assures reasonable success in the classroom;
 - C. Follow all rules and regulations set forth by the Board and the receiving school; and
 - D. Live with a local family (who has a child attending the subject school unless otherwise specifically approved by the Superintendent).
4. Other regulations and requirements.
- A. All arrangements for a year long exchange must be made prior to July 15, and must have the written approval of the school principal.
 - B. Acceptance of students will be limited to grades 9-12 and to students who have not reached 19 years of age prior to September 1.
 - C. Each High School may accept no more than ten (10) full-time exchange students per year or one percent (1%) of the student body, whichever is less.
 - D. Short-term exchanges may be accepted but are limited to three weeks per semester.
 - E. Acceptance will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and no quotas will be set other than the limits set out above.
 - F. A foreign exchange student who has met age and grade qualifications for senior class placement should be considered a senior. At the discretion of the school, he/she may take part in graduation ceremonies and receive a diploma or a certificate of attendance. In order to receive a diploma, a foreign exchange student must meet N.C. requirements for graduation.
 - G. School officials shall not sign immigration/naturalization forms.
 - H. In the event an exchange student fails to meet any requirements of this policy, the principal shall notify the representative of the exchange organization and withdraw the student from enrollment.

Legal References:

Cross References:

Adopted: June 5, 2017