

**INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE (Continued)**

The Governing Board recognizes that personal contact between students of different countries promotes global awareness and international understanding. To that end, the Board welcomes the enrollment of international exchange students and further encourages district students to take any opportunities that they may have to participate in such programs and study in another country. Letters, computer links, visits and student exchange programs all can benefit students and the community at large.

With Board approval, a district school may establish a sister-school relationship with a school in another country.

**International Exchange Students**

As no country can isolate itself from the rest of the world, it is important that communications and understanding be fostered through knowledge and appreciation of each other's language and customs. Those students from another country who live and study in Tracy benefit from the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of another culture. The community of Tracy and district, in turn, benefit from the opportunity to learn about other cultures through interaction with exchange students.

The Tracy Unified School District Board of Trustees also supports the exchange programs by accommodating, when appropriate, the travel of students to study in other countries. The students who travel elsewhere shall meet with school administration and counselors prior to departure to sign an agreement to ascertain what the student is expected to do to ensure the student's success after return to Tracy's schools.

District staff shall provide relevant counseling to district students who wish to study in a foreign country. District credit for courses successfully completed in the foreign country shall be granted in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation.

Ultimately all students, including exchange students, are held to the same standards of academics, conduct, and attendance. For incoming exchange students their educational needs shall take precedence over the granting of a regular High School diploma. Each incoming exchange student will receive either a regular diploma or an honorary diploma at the completion of one year of study in 12th grade in Tracy's High Schools.

**International Student Exchange Programs**

To enroll in a district school, an international exchange student must be participating in an exchange program registered with the California Attorney General's Office, designated

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by the U.S. Department of State and accepted for listing on the Council for Standards for International Educational Travel's Advisory List.

The Board welcomes the enrollment of international exchange students participating in programs that meet criteria established by the United States Information Agency for teenager exchange visitor programs. The Board further encourages district students to take any opportunities they may have to participate in such programs and study in another country.

To ensure that district facilities will not be overcrowded, the Superintendent or designee may limit the number of international exchange students to be accepted at any district high school during any school year.

The district shall incur no financial obligations when sending or receiving foreign exchange students. Program sponsors shall provide assurance of their responsibility for health, accident and liability insurance, the student's home placement, and the resolution of any related personal difficulties which may arise.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish district criteria for issuing regular or honorary diplomas to international exchange students. The principal or designee shall refer to these criteria when assisting international exchange students in selecting classes and co-curricular activities based on the student's individual qualifications, needs and interests.

**Legal Reference:**

EDUCATION CODE

35160	Authority of governing boards
35160.1	Broad authority of school districts
51225.5	Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students

GOVERNMENT CODE

12620-12630 International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organizations

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 22

62.25 Secondary school students, exchange visitor program

**Management Resources:**

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.caag.state.ca.us>

California Interscholastic Federation: <http://www.cifstate.org>

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California Interscholastic Federation Bylaws: Article 2, Section 212

Council on Standards for International Educational Travel: <http://www.csiet.org>

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs:

<http://exchanges.state.gov>

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement: <http://www.ice.gov>