Billings School District 2

STUDENTS

Foreign Students

It is the policy of the Board to recognize the benefits from foreign exchange students in the District. The Board does not, however, sponsor foreign exchange programs or provide financial contributions to any foreign exchange students. The Board assumes no responsibility or control over items such as travel, living accommodations, funding, insurance, etc., which remain the responsibility of the sponsor and/or student.

J-1 visa holders (students sponsored by an approved foreign exchange organization) are eligible to attend either elementary or secondary school. Any sponsoring organization must have a local representative, be a nonprofit organization, and be approved by the Council on Standards for International Education Travel.

F-1 visa holders (individual foreign students sponsored by relatives or friends) may not attend the District.

The District finds that foreign exchange students add to the richness of the high school setting for both District and foreign students. Thus, the District is willing to enroll a manageable number of foreign exchange students.

To protect the interests of the District and students, the District has adopted the following policies (it should be remembered that foreign exchange students are educated at the expense of the taxpayers of the District and the state of Montana):

1. The foreign exchange student must be eighteen (18) years of age or younger at the time of enrollment;

2. The foreign exchange student must reside with a legal resident of the District. Exceptions may be granted.

3. The foreign exchange student must have sufficient knowledge of the English language to enable effective communication and to use instructional materials and textbooks printed in English.

a. The District may administer an English proficiency test of its choosing, which will supersede all other tests.

b. If an organization places a student who, on arrival, is deemed by the District to be deficient in English language proficiency, the organization will either terminate the student's placement or

provide and pay for tutorial help until the student reaches proficiency, as determined by the District.

Academic Standards and Graduation

1. A foreign exchange student will be expected to meet all appropriate standards required of any student enrolled in the District.

2. Foreign exchange students may not graduate or receive a diploma from Billings Public Schools. However, they may participate in ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance.

Orientation by the Exchange Organization

1. Orientation, both pre-departure and upon arrival in the United States, must be provided to the exchange student.

2. Orientation must also be provided to the host family in advance of the exchange student's arrival. The family should be advised of potential problems in hosting an exchange student and provided with suggestions for coping with these problems.

3. The student's host family and the District must be provided written information which includes at least:

a. Name, address, and phone number of both local and area coordinators for the exchange organization.

b. A twenty-four-(24)-hour emergency telephone number for immediate assistance by the exchange organization.

Supervision

1. The sponsoring foreign student exchange organization must assume the final responsibility of resolving problems, including, if necessary, the changing of host families or the early return home of the exchange student because of personal, family, or school difficulties.

2. The sponsoring foreign student exchange organization must contact the exchange student and host family periodically throughout the exchange visit to ensure that problems are dealt with promptly and effectively.

3. The host family must be available and willing to meet with school personnel when functions or conditions require it.

Student Opportunities and Responsibilities

1. Required Courses. Foreign exchange students will be expected to enroll in the following academic classes while attending Billings Public Schools:

a. One (1) English class;

b. One (1) United States history class or one (1) government class;

c. Maintain enrollment in at least six (6) classes.

2. Athletic Program. Foreign exchange students are eligible to participate in the _____High School Activities Program. Guidelines for participation are set by District policy and by the Montana High School Association, as follows:

a. RECOGNITION. The student must be a participant of an "official Foreign Exchange Program" as defined in the publication from the National Association of Secondary School Principals, entitled, "Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs."

b. GRADUATION. The student cannot have graduated or received a diploma in his/her own country.

3. Student Fees. Foreign exchange students are expected to pay all yearbook fees, lab fees, prom tickets, athletic fees, cap and gown fees, lunch prices, and all other school-incurred expenses that are expected of other students enrolled in Billings Public Schools.

4. Achievement and Discipline. Foreign exchange students must maintain passing grades in all classes, follow rules and regulations of District student policies, and show satisfactory discipline and attendance. Failure to comply with these expectations may result in dismissal of the student from the District Foreign Exchange Program.

5. Scholarship(s). The District will not include names of foreign exchange students in its formal class-rank listing based on cumulative grade point average, nor will foreign exchange students be eligible to apply for any local scholarship.

Placement Quotas for Foreign Student Exchange Organizations

1. The fact that a foreign exchange organization has located a host family within the District does not infer the District will automatically enroll the student. While the organization may develop such an agreement with a host family, the family should be advised it is contingent upon admission to Billings Public Schools.

Cross References:	3145-P1	Foreign Exchange Students Procedure
Legal References:	20 U.S.C. 221, et seq.	Foreign and Exchange Students

Policy History:

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