

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

ADOPTED: September 11, 2000

REVISED:

Farrell Area School District

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 the schools of the district.

2. Authority 8 O.S.C. Sec. 1101

The board shall accept foreign exchange students who meet the established guidelines for admission to district schools.

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.

The Board shall accept privately sponsored exchange students on a 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.

The Board reserves the right to limit the number of foreign exchange students admitted to the schools.

3. Delegation of Responsibility

The superintendent or designee shall be responsible for determining the visa status and eligibility of foreign exchange students applying for admission to district schools.

All potential organizations or individuals applying for admission shall forward the request to the superintendent or designee by July 1 preceding the school year of attendance.

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Guidelines
Pol. 203

Foreign Exchange Students Attending Farrell Area School District

Foreign exchange students shall comply with all immunization requirements for students. Once admitted, all exchange students shall be subject to all district policies and regulations governing 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 will be considered for admittance on a space-available basis.
3. Resident host families shall submit a statement accepting responsibility for the student and verifying they are serving as a volunteer host without personal profit.
4. Students shall be encouraged to participate in all student activities and athletics, provided all eligibility criteria are met.
5. A high school diploma shall be awarded to exchange students who meet the criteria to qualify as seniors and who successfully meet academic requirements in place during the year they attend.
6. Class Rank/QPA – Foreign exchange students will not be included in their senior year final class rank. A NR will appear after their name. Class rank is based upon the cumulative ranking for each member of the graduation class.

District students can participate in study abroad the year following their formal graduation from high school. Students who participate only in a summer exchange program and who continue to fully participate in the high school academic and extra-curricular programs shall be considered for all graduation scholarships and awards, and receive a calculated class rank.

Students interested in a foreign exchange experience during either their Junior or Senior year of study must take into account certain issues prior to committing to participation in the program.

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Grades / Graduation

Students desiring a Farrell Area School District diploma must fulfill the credit requirements in place at the time of graduation as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Board of School Directors, Farrell Area School District.

When a student returns from study abroad, his/her transcripts will be reviewed; and to the extent possible, credit will be given toward graduation for any courses that resemble the School District course offerings. It is not required that the student provide evidence of having completed courses that fit the district's course descriptions exactly.

Class Rank / Quality Point Average (Q.P.A.)

District students who plan to study abroad during their senior year will not be included in the final class rank nor will the student have a total Quality Point Average established. Both the Quality Point Average (Q.P.A.) and class rank are based on the cumulative ranking of each member of the graduation class. Host schools in foreign countries follow different school year calendars which differ from the school district's. Therefore, transcripts from foreign countries are not received in time to be included in the final class rank. There is also the issue of course comparison between the high school and the host school which makes it extremely difficult to accurately calculate the foreign exchange student's high school class rank.

Scholarships

Students participating in a foreign exchange program are not necessarily excluded from consideration for any competitive scholarship. However, students who study in another country during their senior year must realize that many scholarships require that an interview be conducted with a committee representing the scholarship fund. Also, academic accomplishments, extra-curricular activities, and attendance are often tracked through the senior year and considered by the scholarship committee.

Foreign exchange students who have successfully completed a year of study in a foreign country may become eligible for scholarships or grants as a result of attending school in another country.

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The School District will work cooperatively with the student, parent(s) / guardian(s), and the foreign host school to assure that the foreign exchange student receives a diploma from Farrell Area High School in accordance with district-approved graduation requirements.

If the prospective foreign exchange student finds the above too restrictive, the alternative would be to look upon the year abroad as many incoming foreign exchange students do: it is considered an extra year of schooling and does not replace the year in their home school.

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