

BOARD AGENDA ITEM
October 25, 2016

SUBJECT:

Changes to Policy JFABB Admission of Exchange and Foreign Students –
Final Reading

BACKGROUND:

The school district works with approved sponsoring organizations to enroll foreign exchange students in Aiken County high schools for a limited period of time. The maximum number of exchange students at the same school at any one time is two students.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

While not a usual occurrence, the school district has in the past had to reject an acceptable foreign exchange student due to the two student per school limit. All seven high school principals endorse this policy revision to provide flexibility to accept additional students when appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the proposed policy on final reading

ATTACHMENT:

Policy JFABB Admission of Exchange and Foreign Students

PREPARED BY:

King Laurence

ADMISSION OF EXCHANGE AND FOREIGN STUDENTS

Code **JFABB** Issued **10/16**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the admission of exchange and foreign students.

The board believes that participation in a well planned and executed program of foreign student exchange can be a worthwhile cultural experience for the students involved and for the community at large. The board, therefore, will consider the admission of non-immigrant students to the district provided the provisions of this policy have been met.

Sponsoring group

The exchange student must be sponsored by an adult, civic or community organization recognized/approved by the district and must live with a family residing in the district.

The sponsoring organization must petition the board for recognition/approval and to obtain the board's willingness to participate in the organization's program of student exchange. Said petition is to come before the district at least four months prior to the time the board will be asked to consider the admission of a student from the program. A previously recognized/approved sponsor organization is not required to re-petition provided there has been no substantive change to its organization or procedures.

The sponsoring group must be able to demonstrate the following.

- appropriate screening of potential exchange students takes place
- placement of students in the homes of responsible adults in our community is assured
- adequate medical coverage is guaranteed the exchange student
- medical and emergency types of travel are available to the student at no charge to the student or the family with whom the student resides

Accepted sponsoring organizations wishing to enroll an exchange student in the schools in the district must notify and make preliminary plans with the respective school administration at least three months prior to the time the student is to start school and prior to the student arriving in the district.

Generally, the placement of exchange students in the same school at any one time is limited to two students. High school principals have the option of accepting additional foreign exchange students in a given school year.

Applications from accepted exchange programs by sponsoring groups will be reviewed by the district superintendent or his/her designee prior to student recommendations to the board to insure continued compliance with the provisions of this policy and that the most appropriate students will be selected.

Admission of non-immigrant students

Non-immigrant students (citizens of another country who will be returning to his/her country at a future date) seeking admission to the district must meet the following requirements.

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- The student must satisfy the same age and other general requirements of citizen students.
- The student must provide a transcript and an official English translation of the transcript at least two months prior to the time the student is to start school.
- The student must be of high academic standing in a secondary school of his/her home country.
- The student must demonstrate a functional speaking and written understanding of the English language.
- The student will be entered only at the beginning of a semester and for a minimum of one semester of attendance.
- The student will be evaluated and graded on the same basis as all other students. Students will not be permitted to attend classes on a non-credit or audit basis.
- The student will be subject to the same policies, rules of conduct and attendance requirements that apply to citizen students.

District high school principals will not be required to assess or recommend a foreign exchange student's total credits for issuance of a high school diploma.

The names of exchange students meeting the provisions of this policy are to be submitted to the board with a request for admission to the school district. Tuition may be charged according to the terms and conditions set forth in policy JFAB. Petitioning organizations are to await notification of the board's action before bringing the student(s) to the district.

Adopted 1/10/84; Revised 11/24/87, 5/9/89, 4/23/02, 9/28/10