

# Pennsbury School District

## School Board Policy

Effective Date	Supercedes Index No.	Index No.
<b>6/17/10</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>239.1</b>

**Title:** Foreign Exchange Students

**Purpose:** This policy sets forth requirements for placement of foreign exchange students.

**Policy:** In order to help promote cultural awareness and understanding and to provide diverse experiences to Pennsbury students, the School Board encourages placement of foreign exchange students at Pennsbury High School and approves Pennsbury High School seniors to attend foreign high schools.

The following requirements must be completed for an exchange student to attend Pennsbury High School.

1. All potential agencies or organizations applying for admission shall forward the request to the Director of Administrative Services by August 1 preceding the school year of attendance.
2. Written approval must be obtained from the principal's office prior to registration. It is important that the sponsoring agency or host family complete this procedure prior to a commitment to an exchange program.
3. Exchange students must comply with Pennsylvania law concerning required vaccinations prior to admission to public school.
4. Exchange students must have a valid passport and a current J-1 visa.
5. Students must be between 14 and 18 years of age, must have good to excellent academic ability, and have mastered the English language sufficiently to participate in an English speaking school and community environment. Student records and recommendations must verify their academic ability.

6. English as a second language (ESL) instruction is not available to exchange students.
7. Exchange students shall be registered in one English credit, one American history credit and physical education/health, as appropriate to the student's grade level.
8. An exchange student is expected to take a full schedule of classes. The pass/fail option shall be available, if necessary.
9. Exchange students cannot be enrolled for more than one academic year.
10. Students who have completed secondary school in their respective home countries will not be accepted for placement at Pennsbury High School.
11. Exchange students do not qualify for receipt of a Pennsbury High School diploma. However, they may be issued transcripts for academic work completed at Pennsbury High School.
12. It is recommended that agencies sponsoring foreign exchange students be approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.
13. A maximum of eight exchange students per academic year may be placed at Pennsbury High School. However, placements shall be made only on a one-for-one basis from agencies or organizations that place Pennsbury High School students overseas in bona fide foreign exchange programs.

For a Pennsbury High School senior to attend a foreign exchange and remain eligible for a Pennsbury diploma, he or she must complete all core academic graduation requires (i.e. four math, four social studies, four English, and four science credits), the graduation project, and proficiency demonstration requirements prior to the exchange, which typically occurs in the second semester of the senior year. In doing so, the student would enroll in elective courses in the foreign high school. Coordination and approval through the Pennsbury High School guidance office and the principal's office during the spring of the student's junior year is essential to this process.

**Responsible  
Administrator:** Director of Administrative Services