

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy shall be to provide for an opportunity within the school enrollment, to exchange social, cultural and personal knowledge, beliefs, understanding and experiences between students of the community of North Kingstown and those of foreign countries who seek and appropriately qualify to enroll in a foreign exchange student program in the State of Rhode Island, and community of North Kingstown.

PHILOSOPHY:

The North Kingstown School Committee recognizes the contributions a sound teenage student exchange program can make to education. To this end, the North Kingstown School Committee endorses any nationally recognized student exchange program that meets the established criteria set forth by the Committee.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The North Kingstown School Department may accept up to four (4) foreign exchange students per calendar year.

For a foreign exchange student to be admitted to the North Kingstown Schools, the School Committee expects:

1. Any student exchange program's basic purpose shall be:
 - a. To promote international understanding by sponsoring, developing and carrying out student exchange programs; to arrange for international cultural exchanges, and for exchange of youths desiring to learn in other countries; and to do all things necessary to achieve these purposes.
 - b. To acquaint students brought to North Kingstown from other countries with American family and community life by having them live with American families for up to one year, and to enable these students to gain an understanding and appreciation of the American way of life through participation in a typical high school, family, and other aspects of community life.
 - c. To acquaint students sent from North Kingstown to other countries with the family and community life of the host country by having them live with host country through participation in school, family and community life.

2. International students must send test results measuring English proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The results must show they possess the English language skills needed to fully access our curriculum. Therefore, they must be independent learners who are

highly proficient in English and will not need additional English language supports. ESL services are not provided to exchange students.

3. Host families in North Kingstown shall be legal residents of the Town of North Kingstown. Priority will go to host families from North Kingstown and then to parents of current NKHS students from a sending community. Tuition payments will be required from the sending Town of exchange students living with host families outside of North Kingstown. Tuition will not be charged to NK resident sponsored students, and the student shall be enrolled as a resident student with the host family as guardian.

4. Applications **must be submitted through a nationally recognized student exchange program by July 1st in order to attend NKHS the following September.** Applications shall include the academic record of the exchange student. An interview with the **host family** is required prior to the enrollment of the student. **The high school principal will approve or deny the acceptance of the exchange student.**

5. Students coming to North Kingstown shall be enrolled depending on their age and their home program; this will determine in which class they will be placed. Students may take part in all class activities while they are at North Kingstown but will not participate in the actual graduation ceremony. A diploma will not be granted to exchange students. Students from North Kingstown going to study and live abroad shall be given such academic credit towards graduation requirements of North Kingstown High School as may be determined by a review of their school work upon completion of their foreign study.

6. Students coming to North Kingstown will not be accepted after October 1st unless previously enrolled in a public school of the United States and then only upon exemplary or extraordinary conditions.

7. Students shall be eligible to participate in all athletic programs, if qualified.

8. Students coming to North Kingstown are interested in American democratic living and should therefore be encouraged to select courses in American Literature, United States History and Democracy. They should be allowed freedom in the curriculum and should be enrolled in the equivalent of a college preparatory program.

9. The international exchange students should-be encouraged to participate in all school activities, curricular and extracurricular.

Adopted: 8/28/73

Amended: 9/5/89

Revised: 5/19/2009

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