

1 **3145R STUDENTS**

2 Foreign Exchange Students

3 **Number of Students:**

- 4 1. Foreign students sponsored through approved exchange programs may be allowed to attend  
5 Great Falls Public Schools' high schools. Enrollment of foreign students will not exceed one-half  
6 of one percent (.5%) of each current high school enrollment in that given year except at the  
7 discretion of the building principal.
- 8 2. These students may be enrolled on a waiver of tuition basis if they are J-1 Visa holders.
- 9 3. Extensions of enrollment beyond the student's first school year may be approved only upon  
10 payment of tuition and completion of the I-20 application process prior to enrolling.

11 **Acceptance of Students:**

- 12 1. Applications must be submitted to the appropriate high school principal by June 10 of the year in  
13 which the student is to be accepted.
- 14 2. Upon considering all applications, Great Falls Public Schools will select students to be accepted  
15 and will notify requesting organizations of the selected students by June 30.
- 16 3. Any tuition payments or waivers of tuition must be signed and agreed upon by June 30.
- 17 4. Foreign exchange students must be eighteen (18) year of age or younger at the time of  
18 enrollment.
- 19 5. Foreign exchange students must have a minimum of two (2) years of high school experience  
20 before being accepted.

21 **Local Representation:**

- 22 1. All organizations requesting placement of foreign exchange students must have local  
23 representation Cascade County. Exceptions may be granted by the Superintendent or designee.
- 24 2. The local representative must work closely and regularly with the students, host families, and the  
25 school.
- 26 3. Host families must be arranged prior to application with the school district.
- 27 4. Foreign exchange students must reside with a legal resident of the district. Limited exceptions  
28 may be granted at the discretion of the board.

29 **Reciprocal Program:**

- 30 1. All organizations shall offer a reciprocal program for American students wishing to study abroad.
- 31 2. A copy of reciprocal placement of students for the Great Falls area, over the past five (5) years,  
32 will be presented to the Superintendent of Schools or his designee.

1 **English Language:**

- 2 1. Foreign exchange student must have sufficient knowledge of the English language to enable  
3 effective communication and to use instructional materials and textbooks printed in English.
- 4 a. An English proficiency test of the District's own choosing may be administered and will  
5 supersede all other tests.
- 6 b. If an organization places a student who, upon arrival, is deemed by the District to be  
7 deficient in English language proficiency, the organization will do one of the following:
- 8 2. Terminate the student's placement.
- 9 a. Provide, and pay for, tutorial help until the student reaches proficiency, as determined by  
10 the District.

11 **Academic Standards and Graduation:**

- 12 1. Foreign exchange students will be expected to meet all appropriate standards required of any  
13 student enrolled in the District.
- 14 2. Foreign exchange students will be considered Juniors by classification and will not graduate from  
15 or receive a diploma from the high school, but they may receive a certificate of attendance.
- 16 3. Foreign exchange students will be recognized during the graduation ceremony.

17 **Student Opportunities/Responsibilities**

- 18 1. Foreign exchange students will be expected to enroll in the following academic classes:
- 19 a. One (1) credit of English 5-6
- 20 b. One (1) credit of United States History class;
- 21 c. One-half (.5) credit of government
- 22 d. Maintain enrollment in a minimum of six (6) academic classes and seven (7) periods of  
23 accountability.
- 24 2. Foreign exchange students are eligible to participate in the high school activities program.  
25 Guidelines for participation are set by District policy and by the Montana High School Association,  
26 as follows:
- 27 a. RECOGNITION. The student must be a participant of an "official Foreign Exchange  
28 Program" as defined in the publication from the National Association of Secondary School  
29 Principals, entitled, "Advisory List of International Educational travel and Exchange  
30 Programs".
- 31 b. GRADUATION. The student cannot have graduated or received a diploma in his/her own  
32 country.

1 3. Foreign exchange students are expected to pay all yearbook fees, lab fees, prom tickets, yearbook  
2 costs, athletic fees, lunch prices, and all other school incurred expenses that are expected of other  
3 students enrolled in the high school.

4 4. Foreign exchange students must maintain passing grades in all classes, follow rules and  
5 regulations of District student policies, and show satisfactory discipline and attendance. Failure  
6 to comply with these expectations shall result in dismissal of the student from the District's  
7 foreign exchange program.

8 Policy History

9 Adopted on: September 10, 2001

10 Revised on: April 24, 2006

11 Revised on: April 13, 2015