

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Students

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District welcomes foreign exchange students looking to gain a cultural and language immersion experience, and foreign exchange student programs are recognized as a means of improvement of international understanding. The exchange of culture through a student exchange program is viewed as a desirable supplement to the educational program.

It is the goal of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to provide international students from diverse cultures the opportunity to experience the benefits of participating in quality educational and co-curricular programs, to meet and interact with students with a variety of interests, and to experience first-hand living in the United States, and Alaska in particular.

General Expectations for Enrollment

- To be eligible for consideration as an exchange student, the student must be enrolled in a foreign exchange program that has been granted “Full Listing Status” by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET).
- The host family must live within the high school’s attendance area.
- The building principal of the high school involved will determine if there is sufficient space to host an exchange student.
- The exchange student must have significant English fluency. Foreign exchange students will not receive any special tutorial assistance, such as ELL services, and will be at a distinct disadvantage if they do not have adequate skills in written and spoken English.
- Foreign Exchange students are responsible for school fees and expenses on the same basis as resident students.
- The exchange student must be up to date with all required immunizations as required by Alaska state law.
- All foreign exchange students will be subject to the same policies, rules and regulations as resident students, as well as the guidelines of the CSIET-approved agency in which they are participating.
- Per the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA), exchange students are eligible to participate in co-curricular activities and compete in interscholastic competitions.

Curricular Expectations for Enrollment

- All exchange students will be enrolled with a junior status, but will be able to take senior or other level courses as appropriate.
- Exchange students must be enrolled as full time students, in a minimum of 6 classes, 4 of which must be academic classes.
- Exchange students are not allowed to enroll in Jump Start or other college credit courses.

Curricular Expectations for Enrollment (continued)

- By default, all foreign exchange students will be enrolled in school on a non-diploma track of studies. The student will be issued a certificate of attendance and will be invited to participate in the school's graduation ceremony.
- It is the philosophy of KPBSD that foreign exchange students are not attending school for the purpose of earning a high school diploma. Attempts to do so may diminish the overall experience due to the increased efforts and potential costs that would be associated with earning a diploma. Having a United States high school diploma is not a requirement for international students looking to attend college in the United States.
- If an exchange student desires to receive a KPBSD diploma, all graduation requirements in effect for regular students shall apply to foreign exchange students. To qualify for a regular graduation diploma, visiting students shall:
 - Provide the school a translated transcript, with course descriptions as needed, from their home school.
 - Meet with a high school counselor and their host parent and program coordinator to determine a plan for completing courses required for graduation.
 - be expected to meet District graduation requirements as detailed in AR 6146.1 "High School Graduation Requirements"

Foreign Exchange Guidelines Acknowledgement

Student Name: _____ School: _____

1. After reading and discussing the guidelines for Foreign Exchange students, I understand and agree to the requirements and expectations for Foreign Exchange Students attending school in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

I understand and agree to the requirements and expectations

I DO NOT understand/agree to the requirements and expectations

2. The school counselor or principal has informed me that I have the option to participate in graduation ceremonies at the end of the school year, and receive a certificate of attendance.

I would like to participate in the school's graduation ceremonies

I DECLINE the opportunity to participate in the school's graduation ceremonies

3. I understand have the option to receive a high school diploma from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and I further understand that I must meet all credit and course requirements for a diploma as specified in KPBSD Board Policy AR 6146.1 "High School Graduation Requirements"

I would like pursue a KPBSD High School Diploma

I DECLINE pursuing a KPBSD High School Diploma

_____ Student Name (Please print)	_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent Name (Please print)	_____ Parent Signature	_____ Date
_____ Host Parent Name (Please print)	_____ Host Parent Signature	_____ Date
_____ Sponsoring Agency Representative Name (Please print)	_____ Sponsoring Agency Representative Signature	_____ Date
_____ High School Counselor/Principal Name (Please print)	_____ High School Counselor/Principal Signature	_____ Date