

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Foreign Exchange Student Program	Date Approved: November 21, 1989 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009 Date Revised: December 13, 2005 December 16, 2008 Date Effective: November 21, 1989 January 17, 2006 February 17, 2009

1. **PURPOSE**

To establish a policy for Foreign Exchange Student Programs.

2. **PROCESS**

The Somerset County Board of Education recognizes the benefits derived from the placement of exchange students from throughout the world in the high schools of Somerset County.

The Somerset County Board of Education will participate in foreign exchange student programs under the following conditions:

- A. The sponsoring program must be listed Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.
- B. Eligible sponsors must be nonprofit organizations or institutions which have received tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- C. The designated sponsor assumes complete responsibility for:
 - (1) the selection of students
 - (2) obtaining a local advisor
 - (3) obtaining host families
 - (4) providing the school system with all necessary placement information
 - (5) acceptance of students on non-racial basis

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- D. The building principal will assume responsibility for the administration of the Foreign Exchange Students program in his or her building, and will make the final determination for acceptance of students into the program.
- E. Prior to seeking placement of a foreign exchange student in Somerset County Public Schools, the sponsoring agency will certify in writing that the student has been fully apprised of the graduation requirements as defined under Maryland law regarding the required credit count and minimum competency testing mandates.
 - (1) A student who fulfills all requirements for graduation will be awarded a Maryland High School Diploma.
 - (2) A student who completes the credit expectations, yet does not pass all of the minimum competency tests will be awarded a Maryland International High School Certificate.
- F. No more than two exchange students will be enrolled in each school per year unless a request to exceed the limits is submitted in writing to the Superintendent by the school principal and approval is granted by the Superintendent.