

302 - FOREIGN AND NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS (International Student Services)

Background

The future outlook for international education is positive. There is a desire from foreign countries to enroll students in Canadian schools and Alberta Education is continuing to work on *“Alberta’s International Education Strategy, July 2001”*. Alberta Education welcomes students from other countries and encourages school jurisdictions to assist those students who wish to be educated in Alberta schools.

With an International Student Services program, Wild Rose School Division No. 66 will be able to assume a proactive role in international education and the Division supports the practice of allowing foreign students to study in its schools and exchanging Wild Rose School Division students with those from other provinces or countries. The Division believes these practices serve as a means to foster national and international goodwill, and because such experience provides valuable learning opportunities for students. A quality international student education program will exemplify the division’s motto of **“creating powerful learning environments”**.

As an outgrowth of this support the Division encourages schools and hosting organizations to provide opportunities that enrich the exchange experience. However, any activities of this nature will remain within the funding parameters of the host organization, or school, and no financial obligation will be undertaken by the Division to assist with their completion except where the Division is engaged in active recruitment of international students.

There are three broad based goals for the International Student Services program:

PEDAGOGICAL

1. To develop and promote multicultural understanding and global awareness for students within our division.
2. To provide a high quality education for international students
3. To provide opportunities for students to be exposed to and develop language skills.
4. To provide opportunities that enhance teacher development
5. To enhance the classroom experience of teachers and students through the strength in diversity of the multicultural classroom [and school].
6. To enhance the learning of multiculturalism and citizenship in the global community.

HUMANITARIAN

1. There is a need and a desire in foreign countries to access a Canadian education
2. Educational opportunity is a social equalizer.

FISCAL

1. To generate an alternative source of revenue for the division.
2. The Learning Commission predicts an enrolment decline of approximately 80,000 school-aged children between the years of 2000 – 2016 and a huge shift in the farm population (SINCE 1995 40% - 7%) which will have a significant impact on rural, central Alberta. This will have significant implications for teacher jobs over the next 10 years. Augmenting student enrolment by recruiting international students is one means of offsetting the impact of such trends.

OTHER BENEFITS

1. Will add educational value to all students (local and international), to our schools and our communities
2. Will be instrumental in maintaining education ties that may benefit participating students and communities.

Definitions

In this procedure:

1. *International student or foreign student* is a student whose parents/legal guardians are citizens of, and reside in another country.
2. *Exchange student* means an international/foreign student on an exchange program.
3. *Non-resident students* include all foreign students and Canadian students who are not resident students of Wild Rose School Division or the Government as defined in the School Act.
4. *Other international students* are foreign students who are not on a recognized exchange program nor have arrangements made by organizations such as those who assist visiting students, and there is no option for reciprocal exchange.
5. *Student exchange program* is a program whereby a resident student of Wild Rose School Division exchanges places for a portion of a school year with a student from another country (direct reciprocal exchange). Two types of exchange programs are available but both must be approved by Alberta Education. The two programs are:
 - 5.1 Alberta Education exchange program - approval through National and International Education - usually available for three months and available to grade 11 students who have second language courses. Students apply in their second semester of grade 10.

- 5.2 Program approved by Board resolution and receiving approval from Alberta Education. The form entitled “Approval for Reciprocal Student Exchange” must be submitted to the Director of National and International Education (Alberta Education).

School boards are not to charge tuition for exchanges under definition 5, as the Division receives funding for their resident student on exchange.

6. *Visiting student* (non-mandated reciprocal exchange or indirect reciprocal student exchange program) is a foreign student who comes to Alberta for a school year [or less]. Arrangements for these students to study in Alberta are made by such organizations as the American Scandinavian Student Exchange (ASSE), Education Foundation (EF), and Interculture Canada. Alberta students have the same opportunity to attend school in another participating country, not necessarily in the same country as the visiting student nor with the visiting student’s family.

Procedures

1. All non-resident students with the exception of *exchange students* must apply directly to the Division for admission to Division schools.
2. It is expected that all non-resident students applying for admission to Division schools shall have a working knowledge and understanding of the English language. International students recruited by the Division shall be administered an English Language Proficiency Assessment and Placement Evaluation.
2. While attending Divisional schools, all non-resident students identified above shall adhere to the Division and school policies/regulations.
3. Students on a student exchange program will be admitted on a non-tuition basis as outlined in Alberta Education Bulletin 3.4.1.
4. Approval for all foreign and non-resident Canadian students attending Division schools shall be at the discretion of the Director of International Student Services for the Division. Factors such as the availability of space, staffing, the amount of preplanning, supervision and security measures, financing, the criteria for selection, length of stay, and the number of students involved will be taken into consideration when approving foreign student attendance at division schools.
5. At the discretion of the school Principal, in consultation with the staff and School Council, visiting students, other international students, and non-resident Canadian students may be admitted to a Division school at less than full amount of the school based portion of the tuition in any particular school year. Tuition fees are established by the Superintendent and reported to the Board annually (See Schedule of Fees in Administrative Procedures manual). The school portion of the tuition fees will equal the amount of the Alberta Education basic funding rate per student in any particular school year.

6. Every school offering an exchange or study program for foreign and/or non-resident students will develop criteria to ensure equitable treatment of students involved in the program.
7. The Division will offer the following programs to non-resident students:
 - Junior High School
 - Senior High School
 - Fast-Track University Preparation
 - Short-Term Cultural and Academic Integration
 - Integrated ESL Support
8. Elementary non-resident students will generally not be accepted for admission into Division schools. Exceptions may be made in circumstances where older siblings are admitted and/or relatives are residing in the community.
9. The Division will ensure suitable accommodation for foreign students prior to accepting such students.
10. Fees shall be payable thirty days prior to registration for each year/semester (high school) directly to Wild Rose School Division.

Reference: Section 8, 49, 60, School Act
International School Partnership Bulletin 3.4.1
International Student Bulletin 3.4.2
Student Exchange Bulletin 3.4.3
Administrative Procedure 502 Non-Resident Student Fees
WRSD # 66 International Student Services Program, Information Binder