



THE HISTORY AND MISSION OF INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The foundation of the IB program was laid during the progressive educational reforms of the 1960s with the goal to modernize education with a focus on life-long learning, service, and global awareness – the skills needed to succeed in a rapidly shrinking world. Mission: **The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.**

WHAT IS THE IB INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY?

The foundation of the IB program at all grade levels is to make students active, not passive, learners – to give them the skills to “construct” knowledge and engage in critical inquiry. An IB school focuses on the “why” and “how” of learning. In the IB framework, the ultimate goal of K-12 education is to prepare students to play a productive role in solving the global problems that plague humanity. This framework is informed by the work of educational pioneers such as John Dewey and Jean Piaget.

HOW DOES THE IB PROGRAM CHANGE THROUGH GRADE LEVELS?

The IB framework starts with the end in mind – meeting the rigorous and well-rounded requirements of an IB Diploma including competency in a second language. The skills students need to meet this goal are built in earlier grades. At all levels, “learner profiles” highlight the academic and aptitudes students need to develop. At the elementary level (or **Primary Years Program, PYP, ages 3-11**), students focus on conceptual understandings, in middle grades (or **Middle Years Program, MYP, ages 11-16**) the focus is on real-world connections, and the highest grades (**Diploma Program, DP, ages 16-19**) students tackle the nature of knowledge itself while completing college preparatory coursework and assessments.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE IB PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS?

At all grade levels, the IB program develops critical thinking and problem solving skills as well as global awareness including the study of world languages. Students can transition from a traditional classroom to an IB program with a minimal learning curve. An IB Diploma earned in high school is recognized in over 100 countries as a highly competitive credential for college admittance. IB students are more likely to attend and succeed in college, most notably students from under-resourced communities.

HOW ARE IB TEACHERS TRAINED AND IB SCHOOLS ACCREDITED?

The IB organization provides quality training options for all school staff as well as a comprehensive school evaluation on a 5-year cycle. Only schools that implement the IB program with fidelity are able to continue offering IB programming.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES



- > [What is IB?](#)
- > [PYP](#) / [MYP](#) / [DP](#)
- > [IB Learner Profile](#)
- > [Key findings from IB research](#)



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