



Benefits of an International Baccalaureate Education

Benefits for the students:* IB students become active learners. All courses, especially the Theory of Knowledge (TOK), encourage students to understand how they learn, how they connect learning, and how they apply learning.

- * IB ensures a world-class education through a standardized curriculum and a balanced array of assessment methods.
- * IB offers a comprehensive curriculum. Many programs of rigor for gifted and motivated students focus on one or more select academic areas, while IB gives students a solid base in all areas of knowledge. IB is a "full service" curriculum and teaching philosophy aimed at developing a student as a whole.
- * IB attracts motivated students, and when introduced in public schools and used like many magnet programs, it promotes access for underprivileged students.
- * The community service component throughout all IB curriculum fosters a sense of responsibility and involvement in the students' communities.
- * In addition to an internationally oriented curriculum, IB gives students first-hand experience of being part of an international community and of having a common bond with students all over the world.
- * The rigorous curriculum and inquiry-based approach to learning prepare students to move to the next level of their education, and eventually, for college level work.
- * IB diplomas and certificates are widely respected by colleges and universities. Participation in the Diploma Program signals a student's hard work and dedication and often leads to acceptance to competitive universities and advanced college placement.

Gains for the school and staff:* IB provides a unified, coherent approach to learning without stifling the creativity and unique talents and perspectives of teachers and students.

- * IB involves ongoing professional development of teachers and administrators.
- * Ultimately, the curriculum is tailored to meet the requirements of the state and/or school district. This means that students receive an education steeped in their own culture and history, as well as one that provides an international perspective.
- * IB has a 30-year track record and network of schools worldwide; it is offered in almost 1400 schools in 116 countries.
- * Teachers are also supported through the Online Curriculum Center, a professional development and resource website with a panel of subject area experts, as well as an online forum for communicating with other IB educators around the world.
- * IB updates its curriculum regularly based on the latest developments in learning theory and pedagogy.
- * When parents understand the strengths of the curriculum, they help teachers create a positive learning environment.

Gains for the community:* The availability of a quality educational program gives a community a new meaning: Many parents choose neighborhoods based on the strength of the school system and opportunities for education of their children. Happy parents support the school, as they know that the school administration and staff are doing their best for their children. It is also important for the students to see that their parents are involved in their education.

- * Improved standards in one school will eventually lead to improvements in other neighboring schools as they compete for students and aspire to have higher levels of performance.
- * Offering an IB program in local schools is a way of assuring expatriate workers that their children will receive a quality education with transferable credits and entry qualifications for schools and universities around the world.
- * Well-educated students will be willing to come back to the communities where they grew up, knowing the opportunities they had in their local school system helped them get an excellent education.