

A Look at Canadian Provincial Practices

IB programs are gaining broader recognition in Canada. Because education is a provincial responsibility in Canada, there is no national policy concerning IB programs, yet the IB is recognized through various provincial policies and practices.

Canadian IB Policy and Practice

Current IB Policies (as of January 2007)

There are IB schools in 9 of 10 provinces:

- 6 provinces (NL, NS, QC, MB, SK, BC) recognize IB courses as equivalent to provincial courses that fulfill secondary school graduation requirements.
- 3 provinces (NS, QC and BC) grant a provincial diploma on the basis of IB results.
- NS allows students to replace the provincial examination with the IB program in all core subjects.
- BC allows students to replace the provincial examination with the IB program in all core subjects except English.
- BC will award provincial scholarships on the basis of IB results.
- 2 provinces (AB and ON) recognize that IB courses can extend the learning outcomes beyond the provincial course sequences and that these courses are accepted for credit and/or advanced placement by post-secondary institutions. However, the IB program does not replace the Senior High School Graduation diploma requirements in these provinces.

IB Policies by Province

ALBERTA Policies

- The Ministry encourages schools to challenge capable students through the IB program.
- IB students must fulfill all the Alberta diploma requirements, including the required provincial examinations.

For policy details, please review the Guide to Education 2005-2006 at:

<http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/educationguide/guideToEd2005/guide.asp?id=051565>

BRITISH COLUMBIA Policies

- IB courses fulfill graduation requirements. However, IB students must write the *English 12* provincial exam but are exempt from all other provincial exams.
- IB full Diploma students can qualify for provincial scholarships on the basis of their IB marks.
- IB students in the French Immersion Programme can meet requirements for the French Immersion Certificate through the IB Diploma Programme and by taking IB courses in French. In addition, students may also qualify for the IB Bilingual Diploma.

For policy details, please review the Course Information for the Graduation Program 2006-07, Grade 10, 11 and 12 Courses section at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/courseinfo/cid.pdf and the Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program 2006-07 at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/handbook_procedures.pdf.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR Policies

- Upon Ministry of Education approval, IB courses may be substituted for provincial courses and fulfill graduation requirements with permission from the Ministry.

For more information, please review: The Senior High School Certification Handbook at <http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/pub/hsc/hsc.htm>.

NEW BRUNSWICK Policies

- No current policies available.

NOVA SCOTIA Policies

- Nova Scotia began the process of expanding the IB Diploma Programme to 10 more high schools as part of the Learning For Life II initiative to improve education by expanding the IB program in the province. The Nova Scotia Department of Education has made CAN\$250,000 available in funding to school boards across the province to fund IB training. The IB expansion is the largest undertaken at one time by any province or state in North America. A second wave of six schools began the application process in the fall of 2006.
- Students in Nova Scotia who complete their requirements for an IB Diploma will earn a Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma.
- Diploma students do not have to write provincial exams.
- IB students in the French Immersion Program can meet requirements for the French Immersion Certificate through the IB Diploma Programme and by taking IB courses in French: two or three in grade 11, one or two in grade 12. In addition, students may also qualify for the IB Bilingual Diploma.

For policy details, please visit:

http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/plans/nse-policy_manual_2005.pdf (page 4).

QUÉBEC Policies

- The IB Diploma Programme is recognized as fulfilling the requirements for a Québec Diploma of Collegial Studies (DEC) under the following conditions:
- The college teaching the IB programme must be authorized by the International Baccalaureate in Geneva.
- In accordance with articles 25 and 26 of the regulations concerning collegial studies, the college must require that students undertake the final assessments of the IB program. Students not fulfilling this requirement undertake the corresponding Québec Ministry of Education assessments.
- The IB program is subject to ongoing review by the Ministry of Education for Québec.
- The college must ensure that the IB Diploma Programme satisfies the requirements for university admission in a similar fashion to the DEC in Humanities.
- The college must put in place a mechanism for reintegrating into the regular program students who do not pass the IB examination or who wish to change programs.
- The number of units eligible for financial assistance must not be greater than the maximum of 58 2/3 units established for university preparation programs.

For policy details in French, please visit http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=3&file=/C_29/C29R5_1_1.HTM.

In addition, a letter from the Ministry of Education confirming this policy is attached in PDF format (French).

ONTARIO Policies

- Students participating in the IB Diploma Programme will be awarded Ontario secondary school credits for the completion of work that complies with the Ontario curriculum policy guidelines.
- Students may be awarded Ontario secondary school credits for the completion of work that does not comply with the Ontario curriculum policy guidelines if the work is first approved as a Locally Developed Optional Credit Course by the Ministry of Education.

A letter from the Deputy Minister confirming this policy is attached in PDF format.

MANITOBA Policies

- Students may take *Senior 3* (Grade 11) and *Senior 4* (Grade 12) IB courses to meet graduation requirements. These courses are assigned a *Specialized* or *S* course designation.
- Students taking IB courses to meet *Senior 4* credit requirements for English language arts and mathematics are required to write the provincial *Senior 4* standards tests in these subject areas. These tests are based on Manitoba curricula.

For policy details, please review the Curriculum Information for Parents, English Programme section at: www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/cur/parents/senior/advanced.html.

SASKATCHEWAN Policies

- The Ministry of Education of Saskatchewan recognizes IB courses as meeting credit requirements for graduation.

For policy details, please review the *Credit Requirements for Secondary Level Completion* section at:

http://www.learning.gov.sk.ca/branches/aar/prov_exams/student_services/credit_req.shtml.

For updates on provincial practices or for additional information, please contact the IB North America Division of Recognition Services via email at vancouver@ibo.org or toll free at 1-866-826-4262.