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world

Colorado

Regional IB association: [\(IBARMS\) IB Association of Rocky Mountain Schools](#)

Members: Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico

Background

In 2003, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education recognized the IB Diploma Programme as “an established and well-respected programme designed to provide innovative curricula worldwide”, and considered IB students as valuable assets for the university system, due to their “ambition, work habits, and scholarship.” In order to retain Colorado IB students in the state’s higher education system, legislation was passed ensuring that each state university would adopt and implement a policy regarding IB diploma holders, with all of them providing a minimum of 24 semester credits to these students.

In terms of financial support, a three-year federal grant which began in 2004 allowed the state to cover the IB exam fees of eligible low-income students, through the “Eliminating Student Cost for Advanced Placement Exams” (ESCAPE) program. However, it appears that funding for exam fees has not continued after the 2006-07 school year.

Several policy reports indicate growing awareness of the need to provide greater state support for college preparatory courses. A 2005 report by the Colorado Closing the Achievement Gap Commission found it “essential that minority and poor students have opportunities to take challenging classes” such as AP and IB. The recently established Governor’s P-20 Council has recommended providing state funds for other “pre-collegiate” tests, in addition to the ACT, the most common college entrance test, which is currently funded for all 11th grade students. Although the IB is not explicitly mentioned in these recommendations, IB programmes respond to some of the concerns expressed in the report, which may broaden the scope for their implementation in the future.

Outcomes for IB schools, teachers and students

Integrating the IB in state assessment systems

Including IB participation in school accountability / progress reports

- School districts are required to report the percentage of students enrolled in IB Diploma Programme courses, as one “accreditation indicator” used for assessing education quality.
- High schools and elementary schools with an IB programme are required to include information on IB course offerings in their annual accountability report.

Linking the IB with state higher education systems

Awarding system-wide college credits for IB courses or exams

- All state 4-year postsecondary institutions must adopt a comprehensive policy regarding the credits offered to IB students, and identify which requirements are fulfilled by the IB Diploma Programme. However, all state-supported postsecondary institutions must grant a minimum of 24 semester credits to IB diploma holders who score a 4 or above on their exams.

Links to policy and legislative documents

HB 1108 regarding credits (2003) http://www.ibarms.org/_assets/_pdf/HB1108am0071.pdf

SB 91 regarding reports (2005) http://www.leg.state.co.us/Clitics2005a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/DFD64504612C4BC587256F5800587C38?Open&file=091_enr.pdf

HB 1345 regarding reports (2007) http://www.leg.state.co.us/clitics/clitics2007a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/DA90BC5DA6E1E7E58725727D005C73E7?open&file=1345_enr.pdf

P-20 Education Council Recommendations (2007) <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1187772339688&pagename=GovRitter%2FGOVRLayout>