



THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE IN THE UNITED STATES

Growth, access and outcomes

SUMMARY

July 2024

Introduction

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is committed to high-quality education that also supports holistic student development, with a focus on international-mindedness, deep conceptual understanding, wellbeing and the competencies needed to flourish in our rapidly changing world. The IB aims to make our programs accessible, and encourages states, districts and schools across the United States (US) to ensure equitable access for all students to rigorous education that meets top international standards.

In alignment with this mission, the IB has published a first-of-its-kind report entitled *The International Baccalaureate in the United States: Growth, access and outcomes*. The report delves into the latest data related to IB participation and growth—particularly among traditionally underserved student populations—as well as research outcomes for IB students, and exam-taking trends.

Highlights from the report

Data on IB World Schools and students

The report reveals that IB programs are currently offered in **1,924 schools** in 48 US states and Washington, DC; notably, **89% of these IB World Schools are public schools**. Nearly every state in the country experienced growth in the IB over the last 10 years, with California, Florida and Texas having the largest number of authorized schools and programs.

Compared to enrollment demographics at all US schools, **IB World Schools have greater percentages of students from historically underserved communities**. Over a quarter of IB public schools are classified as “high-poverty” schools, in which more than 75% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch—a demographic composition that closely mirrors the national proportion of “high-poverty” schools (28%).

Based on the data from the 2023 US high school graduating class, 73% of Diploma Program (DP) and Career-related Program (CP) exam takers sent their scores to postsecondary institutions. Notably, **a majority of transcripts were sent to in-state institutions (70%)**.

Research on IB student outcomes and wellbeing

Research from the report shows that, **across all IB programs, IB students perform well academically, meeting or exceeding international standards**. Primary Years Program (PYP) and Middle Years Program (MYP) students performed as well or better in all subject areas and grade levels than non-IB students on a large international assessment (scaled to PISA).



1,924 schools

in 48 US states and Washington, DC

 = 100 schools



89%

of these IB World Schools are public schools

DP and CP students surpass US national averages in college enrollment, persistence and graduation within six years. Research also shows that DP students attending Title I schools in the US enroll in college at much higher rates than national averages.

With support from the Jacobs Foundation, the IB is working extensively to improve levels of wellbeing for students, teachers and school ecosystems through research and effective interventions.

Summary

In the United States, the IB exemplifies how high-quality, holistic and future-focused education can lead to success for students from diverse schools and communities nationwide. This report demonstrates that the IB is not just about academic rigor, but about creating opportunities that prepare all students to thrive in our increasingly complex and interconnected world. The data and research in this report make it clear that all students can benefit from an IB education.

This summary was developed by Emily VanderKamp. A copy of the full report is available at:

www.ibo.org/en/research/. For more information on this study or other IB research, please email research@ibo.org.

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