

## **A Look at IB Legislation in the United States**

IB programs are gaining broader recognition, not only in terms of academic merit and reputation, but also through state and federal legislation. Through hard work and innovative thinking, a number of legislative and education policy successes have been achieved that help support and sustain IB programs.

### **IB Legislative and Education Policy Gains**

Recent IB legislative and education policy successes include:

- Support for state and federal examination fees
- Subsidized teacher training
- Bonuses and performance incentives
- Scholarships
- University credit for IB diploma holders
- Substitution/equivalency of IB examinations for various state assessments.

While policy gains in the United States have mainly been in the area of legislation, the concept of integrating the IB into state education policy is becoming increasingly important as a result of standardized testing and augmented graduation requirements. In Canada, there is no official legislation concerning IB programs, yet the IB is recognized through some provincial practices.

## **Suggestions for Obtaining Legislative Support**

### **Know what you want to achieve through legislation**

With an understanding of your state's education standards, you can begin to define your legislative goals. Gathering documentation, testimonies and data will demonstrate support for IB initiatives in your state. The IB North America regional association is a critical resource in this process.

### **Understand the legislative process**

Your IB North America regional association can help establish timelines that fit with the legislative process. Log on to [www.ibnasubregional.org](http://www.ibnasubregional.org) for more information about IB North America's regional associations.

### **Establish a support base**

A strong local support base of students, faculty, administration and parents will allow your IB regional association to develop an advocacy network and move forward confidently.

## Hire a lobbyist

A lobbyist can help shepherd you through the legislative process. For example, a lobbyist helped propel Florida's current IB legislation. In addition, the California IB Association (CIBO), used a lobbyist to write CIBO bills, locate sponsors and guide CIBO through the legislative process. This included working with the CIBO Legislative Committee, devising strategies for advocacy and encouraging personal contact between individual schools and legislators. The subregional associations have become effective lobbyists for support and recognition by state, province, and university authorities.

## Current IB Legislative and Education Policies

### Exam Funding (Legislation)

**Arkansas** State is partially funding cost of IB exams.

**Minnesota** State will pay all or part of IB exam fee for low-income students.

**Texas** State will pay \$25 of IB exam fee.

**Federal** (Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Washington D.C.) —These states receive funds through federal AP Test Fee Program that allow them to partially reimburse IB exam fees for students who have financial need.

### Teacher Training (Legislation)

**California** IB schools throughout California share \$1.05 million annually for IB professional development and materials.

**Minnesota** State will pay portion of costs incurred by school districts to send teachers to IB workshops.

**Texas** \$450 may be given to a teacher to subsidize costs incurred to attend IB training.

**Federal** Philadelphia School District, PA receives funds through federal AP Incentive Program for partial reimbursement for IB Diploma Programme application and workshop fees.

## Current IB Legislative and Education Policies

### Bonuses (Legislation)

- Florida** \$50 is given to an IB teacher for each student they instruct who scores a 4 or higher on an IB exam.
- Florida** Students completing IB courses will receive an additional grade point average weight of 0.25 per semester course and 0.50 per year course.
- Texas** An IB school will receive \$100 for each student who scores a 4 or higher on at least one of their IB exams.
- Texas** \$50 may be deposited in the teacher bonus pool for each student enrolled in the school who scores a 4 or higher on an IB exam.
- Texas** Schools starting an IB program will receive a one-time grant of \$3000.

### Scholarships (Legislation)

- Florida** IB diploma holders are entitled to receive 100% of their tuition and fees plus \$600 a year paid at any public university in Florida or a comparable amount to any private college in Florida. Students completing IB courses who do not receive their diplomas and have at least a 1270SAT / 28ACT may also qualify for this award. This award is renewable each year for four years pending a cumulative college GPA of 3.0.
- Florida** Students completing IB courses who do not receive their diplomas are entitled to receive 75% of their tuition and fees paid at any public university in Florida or a comparable amount to any private college in Florida if they have attained at least a 970SAT / 20ACT score. This award is renewable each year for four years pending a cumulative college GPA of 2.75.

### Credits (Legislation)

- Colorado** State-supported post-secondary schools will grant 24 college credits to IB diploma holders who score a 4 or higher on each of their exams.
- Florida** Post-secondary institutions will grant college credit to students who obtain a qualifying score on an IB exam, as determined by the Florida State Board of Education.
- Minnesota** All colleges and universities in the Minnesota State Colleges and University system offer credit for IB scores of 4 or better.

## Current IB Legislative and Education Policies

### Assessments (State Education Policy)

- Maryland** Students receiving a score of 4 or higher on IB exams in math studies, mathematics and English will be exempt from HSA, the state assessment.
- New York** Students may substitute their IB exam for the state assessment in English if they score a 4 or higher on an IB English A1 SL exam or a 3 or higher on an IB English A1 HL exam.
- New York** Students may substitute their IB exam for the state assessment in math A or sequential mathematics courses I and II if they score a 4 or higher on an IB math studies or math methods SL exam or a 3 or higher on an IB mathematics HL exam.
- Virginia** Students who score a 2 or higher on IB subject exams will be considered proficient in corresponding SOL subjects.
- Texas** Every higher education institution in Texas to grant 24 hours of credit to students with IB diplomas.

### State Requirements (Legislation)

- Arkansas** The State Board of Education has required all high schools in the state to implement the IB Diploma Programme or a series of AP courses between 2005 and 2009.
- Florida** Students who are awarded an IB Diploma are considered to have met all state graduation requirements.
- Texas** State requirements for graduation can be met through IB courses.

*For more information, please contact the IB North America division of recognition services at [vancouver@ibo.org](mailto:vancouver@ibo.org).*