

education
for a better
world

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an IB World School?

An IB World School is one that has completed the IB authorization process (which can take up to three years) and is offering one or all of the IB programmes. Distinguished by a broad curriculum, high academic standards, regular assessments, and rigorous teacher training, IB programmes give your child the best possible preparation for success in college and success in life.

How many schools offer IB programmes?

As of June 2009, there are over 1,005 IB World Schools in the United States and over 1,500 IB World Schools in 30 countries and territories within the IB Americas.

Are IB World Schools owned by the IB?

No, the IB does not own or operate schools. Instead, we provide international education programmes to public and private schools worldwide. Our programmes include a curriculum framework, student assessments, teacher training, and professional development services. IB World Schools must undergo a rigorous certification process from the International Baccalaureate Organization, a Geneva-based non-profit organization.

Who can enroll in an IB programme?

To enroll in an IB programme, your child must attend an authorized IB World School. To find an IB World School in your area, please visit <http://www.ibo.org/>.

Your local school district may have specific entry requirements, so check with your school's IB coordinator.

Are IB programmes designed for honors students only?

No, but some schools do implement the IB Diploma Programme specifically for gifted students. These schools may impose their own entry criteria (GPA, test scores, essays, teacher recommendations).

The IB itself imposes no such requirements, so many schools allow any willing student to enroll in IB programmes. We have always been committed to offering an IB education to all students. This is particularly true in the United States, where a majority of schools offering IB programmes are public, state-funded schools. Our programmes are offered by schools of all types — urban, suburban, parochial, secular, magnet, and comprehensive, serving a wide variety of students at virtually every socioeconomic level.

Check with your school's IB coordinator to see which IB programmes are available at your school.

Can a student with special needs participate in an IB programme?

Yes. The IB is committed to serving students with special needs, and all three IB programmes can accommodate special needs students.

However, special needs services and resources may vary by school, and the final decision to admit a special needs student to an IB programme must be made by your particular school. Your school's IB coordinator should be able to answer any questions you may have.

Students with special needs may request special accommodations such as extra time to complete examinations, large-text examination materials, and the use of a computer.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.ibo.org/programmes/pd/special/>.

How do IB programmes include gifted children and children with special needs?

At the IB, we believe in an inclusive classroom in which the development of all students is a responsibility shared by the classroom teacher, specialist support teachers, parents, and the community. The IB is committed to supporting schools in curriculum variation to accommodate the full spectrum of learning styles within each class and avoid limiting any child's potential.

The IB understands the issues our commitment to inclusiveness raises for teachers and administrators. We have developed resources and workshops to address these challenges within all three programmes.

The IB has appointed a special needs manager—a go-to person for IB administrators and teachers. The special needs manager is available to discuss sensitive issues with school administrators and coordinators related to individual students and to handle requests for special exam conditions and assistive technologies.