

## International Baccalaureate (IB): Myths vs. Facts

The IB Diploma Programme, available only through an approved IB World School, provides high school students the opportunity to take a rigorous, pre-university course of studies. IB courses are aligned to internationally-benchmarked exams which provide opportunities for students to earn postsecondary credit while still in high school.

MYTH	FACT
<p><b>Myth:</b> International Baccalaureate (IB) programs are offered through a state-led initiative.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> In order to offer one or more of the International Baccalaureate (IB) programs of education, schools must successfully complete an authorization process directly through the IB. Once a school has been authorized, the school will be known as an IB World School.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> We already offer other early postsecondary opportunities. IB programs are no different from any other early postsecondary opportunity available in Tennessee.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> Offering IB programs helps to expand the portfolio of available options and allows students at various levels to access postsecondary courses. The IB offers a continuum of education through four individual programs. IB programs encourage students to be internationally-minded and to think beyond their immediate environment. IB programs aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who are motivated to succeed and help to build a better world through intercultural understanding and respect. The IB is different from other curricula because it encourages students to think critically and challenge what they are told, is independent of governments and national systems, and therefore able to incorporate best practice from a range of international frameworks and curricula.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> Since the IB program is an international program, there is not a lot of support for schools.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> The IB regional office in the United States evaluates existing IB World Schools and provides professional development, such as events and workshops, which support effective educators and collaborative professional learning communities. Authorized schools also have a worldwide network of highly respected IB World Schools, working together to share best practices. In addition, the IB provides useful materials and a resource library to assist in promoting IB programs, school enhancement services, IB grants, district services, and partnerships and initiatives.</p>

## International Baccalaureate: Myths vs. Facts (continued)

MYTH	FACT
<p><b>Myth:</b> The authorization process takes too long. It's really not necessary.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> The IB is committed to providing rigorous, challenging and unique programs of education to schools. The authorization process backs up this commitment. As a result of the process, parents and students can be confident that each IB World School, no matter where it is located, is held to the same high standard. The authorization process varies by school and IB program. The IB supports the candidate school throughout the authorization process, building the programmatic understanding and organizational structures it will need to implement the IB's programs. Through the IB regional office, the IB supports schools that wish to become authorized as an IB World School.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> An international program, such as IB, will not benefit our students.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> IB programs help students ask challenging questions, think critically, develop research skills proven to help them in higher education, and also encourage students to be active in their communities and to take their learning beyond academic study. IB students "learn how to learn" through the IB's unique Theory of Knowledge course. They are encouraged to try different approaches to learning and to take responsibility for their own educational progress. As a result of their time in the IB, students develop time management skills, a strong sense of self-motivation, a keen interest in civic engagement, notable academic ability, strong research and writing skills, critical thinking abilities, and an international outlook.</p>
<p><b>Myth:</b> IB programs are intensely focused on academics and have no practical application for students attending postsecondary.</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> Research suggests that IB students are more likely than their peers to complete their undergraduate degrees and pursue graduate work; and that they are more likely to be engaged in various aspects of university life. According to the research, IB students are strong on student leadership activities, working with university faculty on research projects, finding opportunities to study in other countries, tutoring other students, taking part in voluntary and community service, and completing internships.</p>