

MYINCLINEVILLAGE.COM: What All Families Should Know BEFORE Enrolling in IB

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An International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma from Wooster (or any school) is a great accomplishment, but at what cost?

The problem with Washoe County School District (WCSD) and many other districts is that they do not share all aspects of IB. Most districts use the International Baccalaureate Organization's (IBO's) excellent marketing materials and do a very good job presenting the positive aspects of IB. Here is the IB information for Wooster High School, updated 8/26/11, on WCSD's website.

<http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us/students/academic-programs/international-baccalaureate>

This article will focus on the aspects of IB WCSD, and most districts, do not disclose.

1) **IB will increase college costs for most graduates compared to their fellow AP students** because AP is much more accepted for college credit than IB. Most colleges that do give credit for IB only give credit for the IB HL classes (2 year courses).

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com/dean/archives/ap-vs-ib.htm>

UNR is similar to most colleges,

<http://www.unr.edu/admissions/admissions-resources/ap-ip-tests>

Washington Post reporter Jay Mathews is the nation's number one IB proponent, co-author of Supertest: How IB Can Strengthen Our Schools, admits colleges give more credit for AP than IB,

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/class-struggle/2010/02/u-va_discriminates_against_sma.html

Colleges most likely give more credit for AP classes because by definition they are college level classes.

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html>

On the other hand, per the IBO's website: "The IB programme fosters the knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable students to excel in university."

<http://www.ibo.org/recognition/>

In this six minute video the vice principal, Ms. Feroah, from Reno High (WCSD) compares AP to IB.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBP3Yx-kDAI>

AP vs. IB Reno High Spring 2011

Ms. Feroah states: "Very very clearly AP offers more college credit than IB. Universities by in large will give far more credit for passed AP courses than they will for IB courses. We did a little research and we can tell you that over 200 universities actively prefer the AP program over IB vs. only four universities that prefer IB over AP."

At many colleges the most credit you can obtain for IB is 9 semester units. On the other hand, top AP students who graduate with up to 10 AP classes can obtain up to 30 semester units and can enter numerous colleges including, UNR and BYU, as sophomores.

Jay Mathews provides the perfect example in this article,
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/class-struggle/2010/02/u-va_discriminates_against_sma.html

Here is specific AP vs. IB college credit information for 23 top colleges:

<http://www.princeton.k12.oh.us/HighSchool.cfm?subpage=416>

2) Per IBO rules when IB/AP classes are combined as they are at Wooster, the IB course material must take priority. Students then take both the IB and AP exam.

It is common for districts to boast about how well IB schools do on Jay Mathew's Americas Best High Schools list. WCSD is no exception, they typically boast about how well Wooster does on the list. But this list is flawed because it **ONLY** considers the number of advanced exams students take **NOT** how many are passed.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-brown/newsweeks-top-high-school_b_213159.html

3) For the IB Diploma over the course of two years, students must meet all requirements in the link below and take: 3 SL (standard level) classes, 3 HL (higher level) two year classes, the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) class, write the extended essay, and complete 150 hours of community service. Article 15 of this IBO document states the minimum test scores and all the other requirements to obtain the IB Diploma.

http://www.ibo.org/become/guidance/documents/DP_regs_en.pdf

Most colleges do not give credit for IB SL classes, the TOK class, or the extended essay.

4) IBO is interested in teaching values. Here is an article from IBO's website,
<http://www.ibo.org/ibaem/conferences/documents/ValuespaperRMarshman.pdf>

On page 6 of 8 in referring to the TOK class it says (emphasis added),

"In their essays and oral presentations they (the students) grapple with questions like

- What makes evidence good enough to justify belief?
- What justifies the name of art?
- Do we act ethically out of social duty, religious belief, universal principle or self interest?
- **When can it be right to disobey the law?**

- **Can suicide bombers be right?"**

5) When attempting to "sell" IB most districts distort the benefits of the programme but; **IBO does NOT claim IB will improve student performance. The research (including one dissertation) shows IB will NOT improve student performance.**

<http://myinclinevillage.com/2011/03/01/ib-does-not-improve-student-performance.aspx>

6) **IB is extremely expensive,**

<http://myinclinevillage.com/2011/02/06/ib-cost.aspx>

7) The reasons most schools state for dropping IB are: **1) Cost, 2) Lack of student improvement with IB, 3) Less flexible than AP, 4) Lack of participation in IB classes, 5) Lack of college credit for IB.**

<http://myinclinevillage.com/2011/06/16/what-all-school-board-members-should-know-if-considering-ib.aspx>

8) Here is how one **Christian school compares IB to a Christian education,**

<http://www.theambroseschool.org/documents/parent-insights-documents/a-perspective-on-the-international-baccalaureate/>

People object to IB on religious grounds.

<http://www.wpaag.org/International%20Baccalaureate%20Program%201.htm>

<http://www.gtbe.org/news/index.php/1/22/186.html>

9) **IBO is a non-governmental organization (NGO) of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) the United Nations (UN).**

<http://www.ibo.org/partnerships/governments/>

IBO and UNESCO work out of the same building in Switzerland (toward the bottom of the page):

<http://www.ibo.org/partnerships/governments/>

If you do not agree the UN's ideology it is probably best to avoid IB.

<http://myinclinevillage.com/2010/07/16/even-jay-matthews-admits-colleges-give-more-credit-for-ap.aspx>

Here is an article where Mr. Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai, Chair of UNESCO's executive board, said: **"UNESCO'S role is to think global governance. That is why the Organization was founded."**

<http://www.infowars.com/unesco-chair-admits-organization-was-founded-to-push-global-governance/>

Here is a link to more articles and a video on the IB/global governance connection,

<http://myinclinevillage.com/2010/09/01/is-ib-mission-to-promote-global-governance.aspx>

IBO does not go out of their way to say IB is an NGO of UNESCO; in fact, some IB proponents will attempt to deny this fact.

10) At the elementary level (PYP) IB is **required school wide**. PYP will not improve student performance (#4 above) and,
<http://www.grandcanyonnews.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=9167>

Per the IBO the goal of IB is to "**develop attitudes,**" and get the students to "**take action.**"

<http://www.ibo.org/pyp/curriculum/index.cfm>

Here is a catchy PYP IB video that is a good example of getting all student to think the same, "develop attitudes" and getting them to "take action" (two signs). How much time was taken away from teaching real subjects to make this video?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHAEzheJk2Q&feature=player_embedded

Unless you want your elementary child in a UN sponsored programme that will develop attitudes and get them to take action, but will not improve student performance, it is best to avoid a PYP school.

Since IBO and most districts do not tell parents IB is an NGO of UNESCO, many parents whose children are in IB do not know this fact. One mother had her daughter in IB for nine years and didn't know IB is a UN sponsored programme. When she discovered this fact, everything she had been going through for nine years finally made sense. Here are her comments,

<http://myinclinevillage.com/2010/11/20/one-florida-mother-who-had-her-daughter-in-ib-for-years---talks-about-programme.aspx>

11) After studying the textbooks used in Wooster's IB programme, WCSDTV concluded that **Epistemology** is being taught.

<http://wcsdtv.blogspot.com/>

12) The current trend with districts is to use IBO's great marketing materials and a few buzz words including: "critical thinker," "world citizen," and "create a better and more peaceful world through education," to RUSH IB implementation. Throughout the country IB is implemented and a lot of tax dollars are spent before parents and the community understand all aspects of the programme. Sometimes superintendents and school boards vote, behind closed doors, to spend hundreds of thousand of dollars and totally change a school and implement IB with little or no input from teachers, parents, or the community. Once IB is in place it can be very difficult to remove. IB has divided many communities around the country. **The site that best covers these issues and "the other side" of IB is:** www.TruthAboutIB.com

13) **AP may be best for gifted students, especially if they hope to earn as much**

college credit for their high school classes. According to Pedro Martinez, Deputy Superintendent of Clark County School District (Las Vegas), and IB proponent, "in my old district, Chicago gifted students usually take the AP classes."

According to Duke University, "AP for Gifted students is still a good choice."

<http://www.tip.duke.edu/node/895>

At the high school level IB can be a good fit for some students and obtaining the IB Diploma is a great accomplishment.

After hundreds (probably thousands) of hours of research on IB, I think the programme is best for average and above high school students who are willing to work very hard, who's parents support the ideology, and who know in advance the amount of college credit they can expect with IB.

Tax dollars are being spent on an expensive programme that focuses on an ideology many consider controversial, forces that ideology on ALL elementary children, provides no research supporting improved student performance, and offers less opportunity for college credit. Parents, students and taxpayers should consider these facts before enrolling in any IB programme.

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Costs for IB at Wooster, Waco, Cholla, and St. Helena

At Wooster IB cost \$932,000 for the 2007-08 school year, page 7 of 11. Wooster had 24 IB diplomas in 2008. Cost - \$38,833 per IB diploma. *For the record, Washoe County School District (WCSD) disputed the \$932,000 per year cost for IB at Wooster. After several requests WCSD never gave an accurate cost for IB at Wooster.*

<http://www.truthaboutib.com/images/Wooster.pdf>

Waco Independent School District estimates IB will cost \$1,000,000 for the 2012-13 school year,

<http://isurfwaco.com/news/local/4664-report-higher-costs-than-expected-for-waco-isd-international-baccalaureate.html>

Cholla High School, Tucson, AZ breaks down IB costs.

2009-10 school year, \$619,259

2008-09 school year, \$302,487

http://truthaboutib.com/images/IB_costs_Cholla_TUSD_c.pdf

St. Helena spends \$1,000,000 on IB in a couple years then drops the programme,

http://napavalleyregister.com/star/news/local/article_93d3c612-5042-11e0-a7c4-001cc4c002e0.html

Battery Creek, SC likely to drop IB, "The (paid) consultant said the diploma program cost the district an additional \$663 per participant in 2010."

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2011/02/04/1536239/international-baccalaureate-program.html>

For Incline High School IB will increase college costs for most of our graduates, because most schools that give credit for IB only do for the HL (two year) classes.

<http://www.princeton.k12.oh.us/HighSchool.cfm?subpage=416>

I thought the goal was for the District to use the money it has wisely!