

Expanding Student Access to a Rigorous International Education

An IB position paper on the Common Core State Standards CCSS

Opening statement

The IB applauds the efforts of the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to improve the quality of education across the United States through the Common Core State Standards initiative (CCSS).

The IB shares with the U.S. Department of Education and its state agencies the important goals of developing internationally benchmarked standards and the ambition to better prepare all students for success in college and career development.

The IB is pleased to have been selected in 2011 as one of 5 sets of standards against which the Common Core was measured by education experts to determine its success in meeting its goals.

The IB recognizes that the implementation of the CCSS will have a significant impact on public schools in states that adopt the new standards. The IB is committed to supporting schools with a range of services and academic tools as outlined in this statement.

IB Program Strengths

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation motivated by its mission and focused on the student:

The IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

As part of its mission, the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

An IB education is holistic in nature. The [IB Learner Profile](#) translates the [IB mission statement](#) into a set of learning outcomes for the 21st century. It provides a long-term vision of education and describes IB students of all ages and provides the basis of the IB's continuum of learning. Its strength lies in the fact that all students, all teachers, see things a little differently. They learn and teach from a broad range of perspectives. Read the full [IB Learner Profile](#)

Internationally recognized, IB programs have a solid reputation for delivering high quality, rigorous, academic learning that is applicable not just in one country, but in hundreds of countries. The IB's four programs: the Primary Years Programme (PYP); the Middle Years Programme (MYP); the Diploma Programme (DP); and the IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC), are offered for students aged 3 to 19. College and career readiness, engagement with cognitively complex learning and synthesis are critical elements of the IB's learner-centered approach.

The Diploma Programme, recognized by more than 1,000 U.S. universities, including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Rice and Northwestern, provides excellent preparation for post-secondary success. Recent research conducted by the University of Chicago demonstrates that IB students outperform their non-IB peers in admission rates, graduation rates, grade-point averages, and in college completion rates. Leading U.S. universities actively recruit IB students for their freshman classes—whether U.S. graduates or IB graduates from elsewhere in the world.

Relationships

Central elements of the IB education programs, as summarized above, are well matched to the goals for student success sought by the CCSS. The IB shares concepts such as clear standards, collaborative teacher design and delivery, college and workforce preparation, international benchmarking, flexible and accessible learning, national consistency and a clear definition of the knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school.

Meeting the expectations of the Common Core

IB schools and students are well positioned to incorporate the principles of the CCSS into existing IB frameworks. The IB is committed to supporting schools with implementation of the new standards.

- The framework for delivery of all IB programs, the teaching practices, and the added curricular content of the DP courses provide a proven model for schools in meeting CCSS standards.
- IB assessment practices provide a model for varied, authentic, relevant tasks that measure student success against cognitive skills learned.
- The IB supports teachers by providing (required) professional development courses which expand teachers' knowledge and skill in leading students to success.
- IB standards and practices for schools, teachers and administrators create an entire pedagogical framework to maximize student learning and growth.
- Many— if not all—CCSS standards are in practice in authorized IB schools.

The Road Ahead

- The IB has initiated relationship studies to identify linkages between IB program standards and CCSS standards. When completed, these will be widely shared with schools, districts, universities and state governments to provide optimal support as the CCSS is implemented.
- The IB will continue to engage in discussions with organizations integral to CCSS development and implementation.
- The IB currently offers guidance and professional development to teachers and administrators as they work towards meeting the demands of both the IB and CCSS.

- The IB will continue to offer informative sessions and presentations to groups such as Associations of IB World schools, school districts, and other stakeholder groups on the IB/CCSS relationship.
- The IB will continue to draw upon school reform initiatives—such as the CCSS— to ensure that the IB continues to lead the way in providing pedagogically current international education based upon research in education and best practices available.
- The IB will conduct research studies that address key questions related to the implementation of the new CCSS standards and assessments.

Summary

The IB welcomes the CCSS as a state-led initiative that holds great potential to enhance student success beyond high school. The IB, a mature, successful, global education provider, looks forward to working with its community of schools to meet the high expectations of the CCSS. We actively encourage IB educators and others to engage with our work on the Common Core. (A list of informational resources is provided below.) Please share your thoughts and suggestions using our dedicated email account ***CommonCore@ibo.org*** and follow us on Twitter @IBCommonCore.

For more information please visit <http://www.ibo.org/iba/>

Additional resources:

- [CCSS Fast facts](#)
- [Common Core Presentation from IB Conference of the Americas 2012](#)
- [IB facts](#)
- [IB mission](#)
- [IB Learner Profile](#)
- IB research studies
 - [Program validation studies](#)
 - [IB Diploma graduate destinations survey 2011 USA](#)
- [Lining Up \(EPIC Study\)](#)
- CCSS standards for [mathematics](#) and [English Language Arts](#)