

International Baccalaureate Program Review and Implementation Plan January 2016

Objective:

To assess the benefits and limitations of continuing with an amalgamated International Baccalaureate Program in Regina Public Schools. This review was cited as part of the High School Strategy, introduced in February 2014. The Division has conducted a review focussing on the feasibility and sustainability of the current International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) programs within the School Division, beginning in March 2015. The recommendations of the review address the Division's commitment to provide access to enriched programming for all high school students.

This review provides an implementation plan regarding the provision of enriched programming across the Division that is equitable and accessible to all Regina Public Schools' students.

Background:

The High School Strategy, introduced in February 2015, was developed with a guiding principle:

"The purpose of this strategy is to create more equity of opportunities for all high school students in Regina Public Schools through a student's neighbourhood high school and access to Campus Regina Public programming."

The High School Strategy provides students:

- Access to quality and a diverse set of courses and extracurricular programs at the neighbourhood high school;
- Access to more specialized programming for French Immersion High School and International Baccalaureate students, along with programming at Martin Academy and specific programs for students with intensive support needs; and
- Access to Campus Regina Public courses for all Grades 11 and 12 students, no matter what high school they attend.

The High School Strategy identifies the need for consultation regarding the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program and current Advanced Placement programming. The Division has committed to providing access to enriched programming for all high school students. Of note, the Division is phasing out IB programming at Thom Collegiate due to low enrolments. The Division has also started phasing out the IB program at Campbell Collegiate beginning the 2015-2016 school year and has started the process of application for IB status for Balfour Collegiate to be accessible to all students in the city.

Summary of Feedback through Consultations:

Feedback was received from a number of stakeholder groups, including past and present IB and AP teachers and Administrators. While there was a wide range of perspectives in the feedback received, a number of re-occurring themes emerged, which are summarized below.

- All groups agree that both IB and AP programs offer excellent enriched programming for students and university preparation
- School administration agreed that AP offers more flexibility and a wider range of options for schools
- Past and present IB teachers all agree that the international aspect of IB is a benefit of the program
- IB teachers also appreciated the training that is provided/required by IB International
- IB teachers appreciate the flexibility of the “internal” portion of the final IB grade
- All teachers liked that both IB and AP have externally graded final assessments
- All teachers thought that IB and AP challenge their students

School Division Data for IB: Enrolment Numbers / Costs:

A. Enrolment

Thom Collegiate:

Year	IB Student enrolment (10,11,&12)	IB Exams written (Includes Visual Arts and French Immersion whom are not registered IB Students)	French IB exam	Diploma students
2010-11	82	73	21	2
2011-12	83	75	19	1
2012-13	56	87	27	2
2013-14	48	65	15	3
2014-15	19	31	9	0
2015-16	5	potential for 17	0	0

Campbell Collegiate:

Year	IB Student enrolment (10,11, &12)	IB Exams written (Includes Visual Arts and French Immersion whom are not registered IB Students)	French IB exam	Diploma students
2010-11	158	51	4	1
2011-12	205	75	13	5
2012-13	221	80	19	8
2013-14	217	70	13	3
2014-15	230	85	22	4
2015-16	238	potential for 92	24	5

Balfour:

Balfour currently has eight students whom have indicated they want to register for Pre-IB for the 2016-17 school year. Four of those registered are from out of area (FWJ Family of Neighbourhood Schools).

Regina Public Schools:

Analysis of historical enrolment trends shows Campbell Collegiate's IB Program has drawn students from across Regina, but primarily the enrolment in IB is from what we would have considered "the Campbell Area." Thom Collegiate's IB program enrolment was almost exclusively from "the Thom Area."

B. Costs Associated with IB (2014-15):

Campbell:

IB Fees	\$52,581.69
Exams/Couriers	\$3,273.51
PD	\$7,299.39 (14/15); \$15,838.03 (13/14)
Staffing (over and above regular)	\$583,800.00 (7.0 FTE)
Cost per student (staff + Core Leader allowance)	\$7,592.00

Thom:

IB Fees	\$12,319.87
Exams/Couriers	\$7,187.70
PD	\$3,605.66 (14/15); \$3,173.74 (13/14)
Staffing (over and above regular)	\$83,400.00 (1.0 FTE)
Cost per student (staff + Core Leader allowance)	\$20,875.00

System:

IB Fees	\$64,901.56
Exams/Couriers	\$10,461.21
PD	\$7,299.39
Staffing (over and above regular)	\$675,990.00 (8.0 FTE + 2 CL Allowances)
Cost per student (staff + Core Leader allowance)	\$9,589.00

C. Costs Associated with AP (2014-15):

Balfour/Sheldon/Knoll:

AP Exams (68)	\$6,800.00
AP Fees	\$0
Staffing (over and above regular)	\$0
Cost per student	\$100.00

*Of note, the costs associated with AP currently are only \$100 per student for exams as all other costs would be considered regular program costs such as staffing and PD.

Findings:

Benefits:

- RPS has used IB as a method of enrichment for over 30 years.
- IB offers a world recognized enriched program.
- AP gives schools and the school divisions flexibility to tailor program offerings to their students' interests and to the capacity of the staff.
- AP gives all schools and students equitable access to a well-recognized and support enriched experience.
- AP can be offered across the Division without a rigorous accreditation and re-accreditation process.
- Both AP and IB offer university recognition and credits given the student has met a minimum standard.
- AP does not "require" costly teacher accreditation and training.

Limitations:

- Required costs of registration, accreditation and training for IB are very high.
- It is not feasible to offer IB in all of our high schools given the requirements and costs associated.
- IB at one location would theoretically draw students from their home communities to a central location (Balfour or Campbell).
- AP is said to be somewhat harder to achieve the "standard" for University credit.
- AP is relatively new to us in Regina Public Schools.

Implementation Plan:

- A. Regina Public Schools will not continue with the process of applying for IB status for Balfour Collegiate as enrolment, costs associated, and the fact that they have a thriving AP program (highest numbers in RPS) does not warrant proceeding.

AND

- B. Regina Public Schools will continue with phasing out of IB at Campbell Collegiate and allow the IB program at Thom Collegiate to finish its last year. Regina Public Schools will continue its plan to implement AP across the Division (including at Thom and Campbell Collegiates) as our option for enrichment for ALL students.

This option allows for equitable access to enriched programming for all of our high school students which is a fundamental premise of the High School Strategy.