

# Santa Barbara Unified School District

## Board Policy

BP 6141.51

### Instruction

#### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE COURSES AND EXAMS

The Governing Board is committed to the educational excellence of all its students. Further, the Board believes that a challenging curriculum and high standards will promote educational excellence. One of the programs offered at the high school level that exemplifies this high standard is the International Baccalaureate (I.B.) Program. The Governing Board supports the Advanced Placement Program as described by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

“The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of studies, leading to examinations that meet the needs of highly motivated secondary school students between the ages of 16 and 19 years. Designed as a comprehensive two-year curriculum that allows its graduates to fulfill requirements of various national education systems, the diploma model is based on the pattern of no single country but incorporates the best elements of several.” (International Baccalaureate Organization)

It is the intent of the Governing Board that rigorous college-level courses be offered at each high school. Further, it is the intent of the Board that International Baccalaureate courses be offered in the Dos Pueblos High School I.B. Academy, and meet the International Baccalaureate Organizations expectations and requirements for International Baccalaureate Diploma courses. It is also the intent of the Board that students demonstrate mastery of the material in International Baccalaureate courses by taking International Baccalaureate exams. International Baccalaureate exams are given to students participating in the program and are a nationally recognized standard for measuring performance in International Baccalaureate Higher- and Standard-level courses.

The Governing Board wishes to underline the purpose of International Baccalaureate courses/exams. These courses and exams should be taken by students who wish to receive advanced placement in college and are able to complete a rigorous program of study. International Baccalaureate courses are designed with the premise that some high school students are capable of completing college-level courses while in high school and by doing so can advance their course of studies at the college level.

The district is unable to cover the cost of International Baccalaureate exams, except for students who qualify under free and reduced lunch eligibility criteria. In order to provide that exemption, a \$47 per qualifying student fee reduction will be sought from the California Department of Education.

The district will provide a weighted grade for International Baccalaureate courses, regardless of whether students take the exam.

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