

# BOARD OF REGENTS

## BRIEFING PAPER

### *Handbook Revision, Credit by Examination*

#### BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program has grown substantially across the state of Nevada, with an increasing number of students accessing the world-recognized high school curriculum at participating high schools. Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20 of Board policy authorizes institutions to award credit for prior learning for certain examinations, including but not limited to IB. Despite the broad authorization, the articulation of IB credit is inconsistent across NSHE. Further, in January 2019, a [memorandum of understanding](#) between NSHE and the Clark County School District was established outlining various areas of mutual interest, including a provision concerning the articulation of IB credit earned in high school.

The IB program has two levels of coursework available to high school juniors and seniors. Students taking higher-level (HL) courses receive 240 hours of instruction, and the examinations are taken at the end of the student's senior year, after two years of HL coursework. Students taking standard-level (SL) courses receive at least 150 hours of coursework prior to taking the examinations at the end of either their junior or senior years, similar to the Advanced Placement (AP) program.

The proposed policy mandates IB credit articulation for HL examinations when the student scores a four (4) or higher on the seven-point scale. For SL exams, the proposed policy mandates credit articulation for scores of a five (5) or higher on the same seven-point scale. This proposed policy, effective with the 2020-2021 academic year, ensures the consistent articulation of IB credit for students receiving the aforementioned examination scores, similar to the current policy for AP.

#### SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy under *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20* to include International Baccalaureate (IB) credit articulation for both higher- and standard-level examinations.

#### IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

As the number of participants in the IB program continues to grow in the state of Nevada, it is important that students participating have the opportunity to earn college credit. IB credit articulation by NSHE institutions should become consistent with how AP courses are currently handled.

#### CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- ☒ Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- ☒ Success (Increase student success)
- ☐ Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- ☐ Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- ☐ Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21<sup>st</sup> century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- ☐ Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

#### INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Ensuring the consistent articulation of IB credit will encourage more well-qualified Nevada high school graduates to remain in the State and attend an NSHE institution.

#### BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- NSHE may currently be losing students to other institutions with more comprehensive IB credit articulation policies;
- IB standard-level courses are taught with similar recommended teaching hours to AP courses and HL courses are taught over a two-year period ensuring a rigorous academic coursework that is suitable for college-level credit; and
- IB programs continue to garner more support in the state as early- and middle-year programs are being implemented.

#### POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented

#### ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

None have been presented

#### RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office recommends approval of the policy as proposed.

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- ☐ Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20*
- ☐ Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #\_\_\_\_\_ Section #\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_ X\_
- Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 20**  
**Credit by Examination**

Additions appear in ***boldface italics***; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 20. Credit by Examination

1. The following examinations and transcript evaluation are permissible for determining credit for prior learning:
  - a. College Board Advanced Placement Examination (*CBAPE*);
  - b. College-Level Examination Program (*CLEP*);
  - c. Excelsior College Exam;
  - d. National League for Nursing Placement Examination (*NLN*), Profile II;
  - e. National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (*NOCTI*);
  - f. International Baccalaureate ***Diploma Program (IB)***;
  - g. Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (*DSST*);
  - h. American Council on Education (ACE) Corporate Credit; and
  - i. Special examinations administered by an academic department.
2. Except as otherwise provided in ***these*** [~~this~~] Subsections for the CBAPE ***and IB***, each institution shall establish procedures for administering and accepting credit by examination that must be outlined in the course catalog.
  - a. Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, scores of 3, 4, and 5 on the CBAPE shall be accepted for credit to satisfy electives, general education requirements, or major requirements. Each institution shall publish the CBAPE score course granting policy in accordance with the requirements of this Section in its course catalog and on its Internet website before the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year.
  - b. ***Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, scores of 4, 5, 6, and 7 on the IB higher-level examination and scores of 5, 6, or 7 on the IB standard-level examination shall be accepted for credit to satisfy electives, general education requirements, or major requirements. Each institution shall publish the IB score course granting policy in accordance with the requirements of this Section in its course catalog and on its Internet website before the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year.***

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***Regent Cathy McAdoo***  
***Academic Affairs Chair, Nevada Board of Regents***  
***2601 Enterprise Road***  
***Reno, Nevada 89512***

March 18, 2019

Dear Regent McAdoo,

My name is Benjamin Feinstein, and it is my honor to serve as the President of the Nevada Association of IB World Schools (NAIBWS). On behalf of our over 10,000 students, families, faculty, staff, and administrators in nineteen programs statewide, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

Many higher education systems in other states - including Utah, California, Colorado, and Oregon - have had aggressive IB recognition policies in place for several years, including offering generous scholarships and a full year of college credit. Nevada currently has no consistent policy. Every year for the last forty years, roughly 50% of Nevada IB graduates have chosen to attend universities out of state, citing the fact that other institutions offer them more for the work they did in IB. While 50% may not seem like an extreme number, it is important to realize that the 50% choosing to go out of state are consistently our top students. This 50% represents our valedictorians, salutatorians, and National Merit scholars. It is time for Nevada to safeguard its educational and economic future by keeping its top students.

The International Baccalaureate is recognized as the top preparatory program worldwide. Research has repeatedly shown that IB students graduate from high school better prepared for college and life than their non-IB colleagues. Not having a statewide recognition policy is a disservice not only to our students and their families but also to Nevada's future. We are losing the next generation of doctors, engineers, educators, leaders, and entrepreneurs. Additionally, we fail to draw top graduates from elsewhere to our state institutions of higher learning. Nevada simply can't compete.

The NAIBWS Board and the Nevada IB community strongly support a Nevada IB recognition policy. We ask for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal.

On behalf of the IB community across Nevada, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me for further comment if necessary.

Yours most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Feinstein'.

***Dr. Benjamin Feinstein***  
***President, NAIBWS***  
***drbfeinstein@gmail.com***

***Nevada Association of International Baccalaureate World Schools***  
***www.naibws.org***



*Valley High School*

**Principal**  
Ramona Esparza

**Assistant Principals**  
Ramona Fricker  
Bency Manglicmot  
Jose Silva  
Thomas Smith

**Deans**  
William Bainbridge  
Jennifer Geissinger  
Tricia Keliinoi

**Regent Cathy McAdoo**  
**Academic Affairs Chair**  
**Nevada Board of Regents**  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512



March 25, 2019

Dear Regent McAdoo,

My name is Ramona Esparza, and I am happy to serve as the Principal of Valley High School. Valley has been authorized to offer the IB MYP and DP Programs since 1979. We are celebrating our 40th year of IB and understand how important it is to recognize our IB programs as our students continue their education. On behalf of our students and families, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

Valley High School has numerous students graduating from other universities outside of the state of Nevada these students would prefer to remain here in Southern Nevada University or college. More important, students seeking teaching credentials often remain out-of-state instead of teaching IB at our own IB World schools in the Valley. We are losing future teachers as a result of lacking Nevada IB Recognition Policy. Looking at trend data over the last 40 years, roughly 50% of Nevada IB graduates have chosen to attend universities out of state. Many of these students cite the fact that other institutions offer them credit, scholarships, and other benefits due to their IB recognition policies. Nevada does not currently have a consistent IB recognition policy, and we are losing students because of this. Passing and implementing the proposed IB recognition policy will show we recognize and value to rigor of IB, and will clearly demonstrate Nevada's support of our IB families and communities statewide.

The Nevada Association of IB World Schools (NAIBWS) strongly supports a Nevada IB recognition policy, and Valley High School is in full agreement. We ask for your consideration and for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal.

Yours most sincerely,

Ramona Esparza  
Principal, Valley High School

2839 S. Burnham Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89169  
PHONE (702) 799-5450 FAX (702) 799-0019



## Earl Wooster High School

1331 E. Plumb Lane • Reno, NV 89502 • Phone (775) 321-3160 • FAX (775) 333-5108

Washoe County School District • [www.woosterscolts.com](http://www.woosterscolts.com)

Leah Keuscher, Principal



Marly Barainca, Assistant Principal • Mike Nakashima, Assistant Principal • Charlie Walsh, Assistant Principal

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Regent Cathy McAdoo  
Academic Affairs Chair  
Nevada Board of Regents  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

March 18, 2019

Dear Regent McAdoo,

My name is Leah Keuscher, and I am happy to serve as the Principal of Wooster High School. Wooster has been authorized to offer the IB Diploma Program since 1997, and was authorized to offer the IB Career-related Program, as well as additionally becoming an IB Middle Years Program School in 2014. On behalf of our students and families, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

Wooster High School has the privilege of being the only IB World School in northern Nevada, and we accept the top students from across the Washoe County School District in our program. A large majority of our highest scoring graduates leave the state every year to continue their education at universities that value IB educations. By not recognizing the rigors of the IB program, we are losing our greatest assets to other states and communities.

Looking at trend data over the last 40 years, roughly 50% of Nevada IB graduates have chosen to attend universities out of state. Many of these students cite the fact that other institutions offer them credit, scholarships, and other benefits due to their IB recognition policies. Nevada does not currently have a consistent IB recognition policy, and we are losing students because of this. Speaking on behalf of Wooster High School, we simply cannot afford to lose our top students to out-of-state institutions. Passing and implementing the proposed IB recognition policy will show we recognize and value to rigor of IB, and will clearly demonstrate Nevada's support of our IB families and communities statewide.

The Nevada Association of IB World Schools (NAIBWS) strongly supports a Nevada IB recognition policy, and Wooster High School is in full agreement. We ask for your consideration and for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal.

Please feel free to contact me for further comment if necessary.

Yours most sincerely,

Leah Keuscher  
Principal, Wooster High School



# GREEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Commitment to Excellence

Regent Cathy McAdoo  
Academic Affairs Chair  
Nevada Board of Regents  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

March 28, 2019

Dear Regent McAdoo,

My name is Kent Roberts, the Principal of Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada. Our school has been authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the IB Diploma Program(s) since 1993. We are the second oldest IB Diploma Program in the state. On behalf of our students and families and stakeholders, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

After nearly 26 years of offering the IB Diploma Program, Green Valley High School School has graduated over 500 Diploma Candidates. Of these 500 Green Valley IB graduates, less than 25% chose to attend Nevada universities. Many of these students cite the fact that out-of-state post-secondary institutions offer them credit, scholarships, and other benefits due to their respective and publicized IB recognition policies. Currently, Nevada does not currently have a consistent IB recognition policy, and we are losing students because of this.

Speaking on behalf of public education in one of the largest school districts in the nation, I believe we simply cannot afford to lose our top students to out-of-state institutions. Passing and implementing the proposed IB recognition policy will show Nevada recognizes and values the rigor and standards of an International Baccalaureate education, and will clearly demonstrate our state's support of IB families and IB schools.

The Nevada Association of IB World Schools (NAIBWS) strongly supports a Nevada IB recognition policy, and Green Valley High School is in full agreement. We ask for your consideration and for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal.

Please feel free to contact me for further comment if necessary.

Yours most sincerely,

Kent Roberts  
Principal, Green Valley High School  
Henderson, Nevada

460 Arroyo Grande Blvd., Henderson, NV 89014  
Telephone (702) 799-0950



# Palo Verde High School

An International Baccalaureate World School

333 PAVILION CENTER DRIVE LAS VEGAS, NV 89144

PHONE (702) 799-1450

FAX (702) 799-1455

Regent Cathy McAdoo  
Academic Affairs Chair  
Nevada Board of Regents  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

March 19, 2019

Dear Regent McAdoo,

My name is Darren Sweikert, and I am happy to serve as the Principal of Palo Verde High School. Palo Verde has been authorized to offer the IB Diploma Program since 2015. On behalf of our students and families, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

Palo Verde High School is a comprehensive high school, grades 9-12, which has approximately 3,250 students. Currently, in our IB Junior Cohort, we have students from Egypt, Iran, Armenia, and Canada, and eight languages represented from around the world. Looking at trend data over the last 40 years, roughly 50% of Nevada IB graduates have chosen to attend universities out of state. Many of these students cite the fact that other institutions offer them credit, scholarships, and other benefits due to their IB recognition policies. Nevada does not currently have a consistent IB recognition policy, and we are losing students because of this. Speaking on behalf of Palo Verde High School, we simply cannot afford to lose our top students to out-of-state institutions. Passing and implementing the proposed IB recognition policy will show we recognize and value to rigor of IB, and will clearly demonstrate Nevada's support of our IB families and communities statewide.

The Nevada Association of IB World Schools (NAIBWS) strongly supports a Nevada IB recognition policy, and Palo Verde High School is in full agreement. We ask for your consideration and for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal.

Please feel free to contact me for further comment if necessary.

Yours most sincerely,

Darren Sweikert  
Principal, Palo Verde High School

--- made bold by knowledge of the past and present, we conquer the twenty-first century ---  
[paloverde.org](http://paloverde.org)





**Basic Academy of International Studies**  
Clark County School District  
400 N. Palo Verde Drive  
Henderson, NV 89015  
Phone: (702) 799-8000  
Fax: (702) 799-8966

Gerald Bustamante – Principal • Karen Hatch, Mel Snively, Deborah Thaggard - Assistant Principals • Rosanna Johnson, Jonathan Guerin - Deans

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**Regent Cathy McAdoo**  
**Academic Affairs Chair**  
**Nevada Board of Regents**  
**2601 Enterprise Road**  
**Reno, Nevada 89512**

**March 18, 2019**

Dear Regent McAdoo,

My name is Gerald Bustamante, and I am happy to serve as the Principal of Basic Academy of International Studies. Basic Academy has been authorized to offer the IB Middle Years, Diploma, and Career Programs since 2017. On behalf of our students and families, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

Basic Academy is currently graduating our first cohort; our top three students have already committed to universities outside Nevada. Looking at trend data over the last 40 years, roughly 50% of Nevada IB graduates have chosen to attend universities out of state. Our students cite the fact that other institutions offer them credit, scholarships, and other benefits due to their IB recognition policies. Nevada does not currently have a consistent IB recognition policy, and we are losing students because of this. Speaking on behalf of Basic Academy, we simply cannot afford to lose our top students to out-of-state institutions. Passing and implementing the proposed IB recognition policy will show we recognize and value to rigor of IB, and will clearly demonstrate Nevada's support of our IB families and communities statewide.

The Nevada Association of IB World Schools (NAIBWS) strongly supports a Nevada IB recognition policy, and Basic Academy is in full agreement. We ask for your consideration and for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal.

Please feel free to contact me for further comment if necessary.

Sincerely,



Gerald Bustamante

Principal, Basic Academy of International Studies



# Spring Valley High School

3750 South Buffalo Drive

Las Vegas, Nevada 89147

Phone (702) 799-2580 • Fax (702) 799-1288



**Regent Cathy McAdoo**  
**Academic Affairs Chair, Nevada Board of Regents**  
**2601 Enterprise Road**  
**Reno, Nevada 89512**

March 18, 2019

Dear Regent McAdoo,

My name is Tam Larnerd, and I am happy to serve as the Principal of Spring Valley High School. Spring Valley is honored to be the largest IB school in the state of Nevada. On behalf of Spring Valley High School, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

Spring Valley is authorized to offer the IB Middle Years Program (MYP) and IB Diploma Program. In the upcoming 2019-2020 school year, we will have over 130 seniors enrolled in the Diploma Program, with an enrollment of over 600 IB students 9-12. Looking at trend data over the last 40 years, roughly 50% of Nevada IB graduates have chosen to attend universities out of state, many citing the fact that other institutions offer them credit, scholarships, and other benefits due to their IB recognition policies.

Nevada does not currently have a consistent IB recognition policy, and we are losing students because of this. Speaking on behalf of Spring Valley, we simply cannot afford to lose our top students to out-of-state institutions. Passing and implementing the proposed IB recognition policy will show we recognize and value to rigor of IB, and will clearly demonstrate Nevada's support of our IB families and communities statewide.

The Nevada Association of IB World Schools (NAIBWS) strongly supports a Nevada IB recognition policy, and Spring Valley High School is in full agreement. We ask for your consideration and for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal. Please feel free to contact me for further comment if necessary.

Yours most sincerely,

**Tam Larnerd**  
**Principal, Spring Valley High School**



CLARK COUNTY 5100 West Sahara Ave.  
SCHOOL DISTRICT Las Vegas, NV 89146

March 19, 2019

Regent Cathy McAdoo  
Academic Affairs Chair  
Nevada Board of Regents  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

Dear Regent McAdoo,

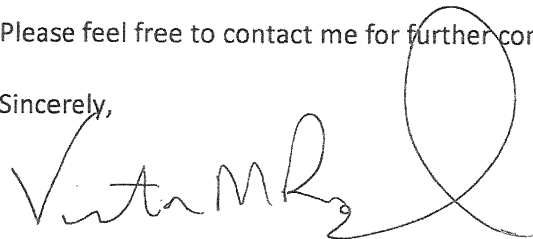
My name is Dr. Victoria Roybal and it has been my pleasure to serve as Head of School at Vaughn Middle School since our authorization in 2015. I am writing in the interest of our students and families in support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

Vaughn Middle School is an urban Title 1 school in an economically impacted area of Reno. As an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme School, we partner and feed to Wooster High School which offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Our goal is to offer a Middle and High School program which offers our students, in spite of their personal challenges, a chance for success in college. We encourage students to prepare and to choose the rigorous IB courses. These courses require a depth of rigor and understanding that are comparable to freshman university classes. When discussing their high school and college plans, the brightest and most diligent students ask if their IB classes will be given recognition at the university level. I have sat in on some of the Dean's Scholars meetings at Vaughn and have personally heard these concerns. Inevitably, a student will follow up with an inquiry regarding whether there are universities in other states which recognize IB course work. Nevada does not currently have a consistent IB recognition policy, and we are losing students because of this. Speaking on behalf of Vaughn Middle School, we cannot afford to lose our brightest and hardest working students to out-of-state colleges and universities. Passing and implementing the proposed IB recognition policy will clearly demonstrate Nevada's support of IB families and schools.

The Nevada Association of IB World Schools strongly supports a Nevada IB recognition policy, and Vaughn Middle School, an International Baccalaureate World School, is in full agreement. We ask for your consideration and for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal.

Please feel free to contact me for further comment if necessary.

Sincerely,



Victoria Roybal, Ph.D.



# Sheila Tarr Academy of International Studies

*Alyson Jones*  
Principal

Regent Cathy McAdoo  
Academic Affairs Chair  
Nevada Board of Regents  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

March 19, 2019

Dear Regent McAdoo,

I am currently the Principal at Sheila Tarr Academy of International Studies. We are a candidate International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program school. Our authorization visit was earlier this year and we are hoping to become an authorized school by the time school starts in August. The staff has worked very hard to meet the demands of an IB World School and are excited to share the many wonderful qualities an IB education has with our students. On behalf of our students and families, I am writing this letter in strong support of the Nevada System of Higher Education IB recognition policy draft (Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20, Number 2b).

As we have transitioned from a traditional elementary school to an International Baccalaureate school, our students have begun to inquire more about what they are learning and learn things that interest them. Each year we see an increase in the number of our students who go on to attend a middle school that is a magnet school. As our parents and students see the benefits of an IB education, more are choosing to attend the Middle Years Program at Johnson Junior High School.

Looking at trend data over the last 40 years, roughly 50% of Nevada IB graduates have chosen to attend universities out of state. Many of these students cite the fact that other institutions offer them credit, scholarships and other benefits due to their IB recognition policies. Currently, Nevada does not have a consistent IB recognition policy and we are losing students because of this. On behalf of Sheila Tarr Academy of International Studies, we simply cannot afford to lose our top students to out-of-state institutions. Passing and implementing the proposed IB recognition policy will show we recognize and value the rigor of IB and will clearly demonstrate Nevada's support of our IB families and communities statewide. This year, UNLV has started to offer undergraduate and graduate programs that support IB. I would like to be able to hire a teacher who has graduated from a Nevada high school, then chose to attend UNLV because the school recognized their IB status. Having a teacher who was an IB student and then teaches IB students would be amazing. With your support of the policy this can become a reality.

The Nevada Association of IB World Schools (NAIBWS) strongly supports a Nevada IB recognition policy and Sheila Tarr Academy is in full agreement. We ask for your consideration and for the consideration of the Board of Regents in passing this crucial policy proposal.

Thank you for supporting our students who choose to be internationally minded and attend IB schools.

Sincerely,

Alyson Jones, Principal  
Sheila Tarr Academy of International Studies