

Dear Members of the House Committee On Education,

I received an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma from Lincoln High School in 2017 and graduated from Santa Clara University in 2021. I am strongly in favor of increased flexibility for high school students pursuing an IB Diploma. I benefitted from IB in a variety of ways during and after my participation in the program.

Participating in the IB diploma at Lincoln High School exposed me to a rigorous course load that introduced me to different worldviews and encouraged me to dive deep into subject matters such as chemistry and calculus. Classes such as Theory of Knowledge highlighted the importance of always questioning how and why we 'know' things. The breadth and depth of subject matter in my IB course load uniquely prepared me for my undergraduate studies.

At Santa Clara University I was able to transfer course credits I received from the IB Program to my transcript. The head-start on course credits allowed me to pursue two majors in marketing and psychology. Without the transfer credits this likely wouldn't have been possible. During my freshman year I observed multiple parallels between my college courses and the IB classes I took in high school. These similarities included but weren't limited to expectations around analytical writing, the importance of scrutiny in academia, and how there rarely is a single perspective on any given subject matter. I applied the academic and analytical skills from the IB Program throughout my college education. I still question why and how we know things in my current work as a design engineer.

I believe that the IB Program is a uniquely beneficial tool for high school students. I hope my experience illustrates how I directly benefitted from IB and demonstrates how current and future students can benefit as well. I strongly encourage you to vote for this bill.

Best,  
An IB Baccalaureate