

The Truth About IB



PYP and MYP

www.truthaboutib.com

By
Lisa E. McLoughlin

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IB PYP & MYP

The International Baccalaureate Organization officially formed in 1968 to serve the children of UN diplomats who traveled around the globe and were in need of a recognizable standard for admission into Universities. According to former IBO Director General George Walker, the intellectual process which would culminate in the IB Diploma Programme was begun by Marie-Therese Maurette in 1948 when she wrote a paper for UNESCO called "Ways for Educating for Peace: do they exist?" Maurette had outlined a program and pedagogy which included the following elements:

Geography should be taught starting not with the student's country of origin but with the whole world
History should not be taught before the age of 12 to avoid it becoming a catalogue of national heroes and patriotic celebrations. When introduced, it must be world history
Each week there should be an hour's lesson of "national culture" taught to classes divided into small national groups, but this will be deliberately subordinated to international geography and history.
Promotion of bilingualism
Regular debates should encourage students to think about world affairs
Students should take part in sports, community service and in the life of the school.

According to Ian Hill, Deputy Director General of IBO, "The primary goal of IBO is the promotion of world citizenship." Currently, IBO is a signatory to a Peace Education agreement with UNESCO through the year 2010 whereby IBO agrees to integrate the UNESCO educational goals into every aspect of its curriculum: <http://www3.unesco.org/iycp/Report/IBO.pdf> . IBO and its representatives often publicly deny a relationship with the UN, but it is there in black and white in addition to annual funding of IBO by the UN which can be viewed in any of its annual reports..

IBO bills its PYP as a program for children ages 3-12. IBO describes the PYP as "a transdisciplinary programme of international education designed to foster the development of the whole child." Big words, sounds impressive, but exactly what does a school get when it buys the PYP?

IB MISSION STATEMENT AND LEARNER PROFILE

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

According to IBO, the "overarching concept" of its three programs is to "develop international-mindedness" in students.
Learner profile: http://www.ibo.org/programmes/documents/learner_profile_en.pdf

PYP APPLICATION/AUTHORIZATION

IBO claims a "rigorous" approval process which takes approximately two years. Actually, there is nothing terribly rigorous about the process except the strain it puts on a district's budget. There is absolutely no evidence of a school ever being denied IBO authorization. The

cost of the application is \$17,000 for Parts A & B. At the PYP level, IBO requires every teacher and the school administrator to receive IB training. These three day training sessions are rarely held locally and require teachers to fly to locations all over the U.S. and Canada. There are three (3) levels of training. Each session, per teacher, per level, averages \$1,500. A school of average size will invest approximately \$50,000-60,000 training teachers before a single class is taught. An additional \$6,620 membership fee is required annually to maintain IBO authorization. IBO also requires a school to establish an IB Coordinator position for the school. In the United States, there are currently only **165** schools with the IB PYP. Globally, there are 538 PYP schools.

PYP FRAMEWORK

Press releases celebrating IB authorization often boast of implementing a "rigorous curriculum". Parents, eager for greater challenges for their children, often accept this rhetoric without question. But is the PYP really a "curriculum"? The answer is no, it is not. According to IBO: *The curriculum framework consists of five essential elements: concepts, knowledge, skills, attitudes, action. The knowledge component is developed through inquiries into six transdisciplinary themes of global significance, supported and balanced by six subject areas.* These six themes include: Who we are, Sharing the planet, How we organize ourselves, How the world works, Where we are in space and time and How we express ourselves. Each of these themes are incorporated into the core subjects, the REAL curriculum, which your child's school is required to offer as per individual State standards. To further obfuscate a parent's impression of what PYP is, IBO adds:

The curriculum framework is further structured around three interrelated questions.

What do we want to learn? *The written curriculum.*

How best will we learn? *The taught curriculum.*

How will we know what we have learned? *The assessed curriculum.*

What does this really mean? The school writes the curriculum, which translates into a teacher's daily lesson plans. The teacher teaches. The teacher/State creates and grades student exams. IBO seeks to influence the "flavor" of traditional education with its themes and questions, but provides nothing of substance when it comes to math, science, language, physical education and history.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

The PYP and MYP were developed by IBO in the early 1990's. In its effort to expand the number of PYP and MYP IB programs around the world, initially IBO permitted some schools to allow only a portion of the students at the elementary level to participate in PYP. Such was the case in an elementary school in Upper St. Clair, PA. However, after seven years and an ACLU lawsuit, a recent IB review of the district's PYP strongly chastised the district for not implementing the PYP on a school wide basis. IBO calls this mandatory participation "inclusive": *The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is an inclusive programme that has something to offer everyone. A PYP school **is expected** to implement the programme in an inclusive manner, so that **all students in all the grades/year levels in the school or in the primary division of a school are engaged fully with the PYP.***

In a private or magnet school, parents make the choice to enroll their children in this internationally themed program. However, when a public school implements PYP, choice of traditional education is eliminated.

MYP

The IB MYP is designed for children ages 11-16. Note the overlap between the PYP and MYP for ages 11 and 12. The reason for this is simple, the MYP is not a curriculum, just as the PYP is not a curriculum.

IBO describes the MYP as: *a programme of international education designed to help students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world.*

At the MYP level, IBO requires the addition of a second language and a technology component. IB concludes the MYP with what it calls a “personal project”: <http://www.ibo.org/iba/enewsletter/may2009/myp.cfm> While claiming its assessments are “criterion referenced”, a school is unable to determine what the criteria are prior to implementation as IBO requires schools to purchase said criteria from its IB Store, over and above the onerous fees already detailed above.

MYP AUTHORIZATION

The authorization process for the MYP is slightly different than for the PYP or DP. After spending the \$8,500 for Application Part A, purchasing the MYP publications from the IB store and paying tens of thousands for IB teacher and administrator training, IB allows schools to teach the MYP on a one year trial basis. During this one year trial period, the school files Application Part B along with another \$8,500 fee, leading up to an authorization visit by an IB visiting team. The annual “membership” fee for the MYP is the same as the PYP, \$6,620. There are currently only **298** MYP schools in the United States and 708 MYP schools globally.

OTHER CONCERNS

IB has caused controversy and divisiveness in several communities which were not fully informed and on board with the “programme”

Additional layer of bureaucracy, loss of local control

Legal questions remain unanswered: IBO requires any litigation to be handled in the courts of Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.eagleforum.org/educate/2006/may06/IBSchools.html>

I hope this information is helpful as you consider whether or not to proceed with the implementation of IB. I have been accused of spreading “misinformation” and “propaganda”, yet everything I have relayed to you in this letter is verifiable. I am featured in Jay Mathews’ book *Supertest*, Chapter 45, and criticized in former IBO Director General George Walker’s 2005 Plenary Speech (as Mrs. Long Island) for my concern of his endorsement of loss of individual (and national) sovereignty : (pg. 4) http://www.ibo.org/dg/emeritus/speeches/documents/ibna_jul05.pdf. Mr. Walker urges supporters of IB to:

“.....recognize that difference, to be able to describe it and to be prepared to defend it. Increasingly, there will be moments in this region when we shall all need to stand up and be counted”.

If Mr. Walker considers me enough of a philosophical threat to “stand up and be counted” against, I hope you will give due consideration to my position and research on IB. Please feel free to contact me at lisamc3@optonline.net with any further questions

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Lisa McLoughlin is available as an independent consultant to American public school districts considering the implementation of IB. Phase B of the IB authorization process requires districts to hire an IB consultant. Board of Education Trustees, as representatives of the Public Trust, should avail themselves of the opportunity to hear both sides of the IB story before investing taxpayer dollars into this expensive educational program. If interested, please e-mail lisamc3@optonline.net for information on fee and availability.

“McLoughlin, in my view, has become the liveliest and most intelligent IB critic in the country.” ~Jay Mathews, The Washington Post, 10/09/07