



The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme is an internationally recognized educational framework for kindergarten through 12th grade that follows New York State Education Standards. IB is not **what** we teach and learn in Somers, but rather **how** we teach and learn.

Separate fact from fiction. Here are some common misconceptions and facts about the International Baccalaureate Programme:

Myth: IB is only for the high-achieving students.

FACT: The IB framework is designed to minimize barriers for all students and fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and a passion for learning. It promotes inclusivity and a collaborative culture, encouraging exploration of concepts and topics of interest to individual students. Students receive the individualized support they need to be successful.

Myth: IB isn't nationally recognized and doesn't support the teaching of New York State Standards.

FACT: In SCSD, all instructional units follow New York State Standards. IB provides the framework for the best teaching and learning practices across all grades. IB is recognized by the Military Child Education Coalition as a valuable and rigorous academic program for children of U.S. military personnel.

Myth: IB is a prescribed curriculum.

FACT: Curriculum, including content and resources, are chosen at the school level based on New York State Standards. The IB framework equips students with critical thinking skills to draw independent conclusions based on their own research and experience. This approach supports diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and opinions, empowering students to ask questions and find the answers themselves.

Myth: All tests and papers of American [IB] students are sent to Europe/Geneva for grading and evaluation.

FACT: Assessment in the IB Diploma Programme is evaluated by students' own teachers and external examiners. Rigorous review and moderation ensure a consistent standard, similar to the Advanced Placement (AP) Program, which sends exams worldwide for scoring by teachers. Both IB and AP require scorers who are current teachers of that subject with a minimum of three years of experience.



What is an IB education?

