



# Deerfield Beach High School International Baccalaureate Admissions Policy

Revised August 2023

## Admission to the DBHS IB Program

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is an accelerated four-year liberal arts curriculum designed to meet the needs of the highly motivated and academically talented student. The IB Program is intensive, offering an accelerated curriculum for ninth and tenth grade students to prepare them for the rigors of the IB Diploma Program in the eleventh and twelfth grades. Students who receive the prestigious IB diploma are held in the highest esteem by universities throughout the world. Florida IB diploma recipients are eligible for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship and are often admitted as sophomores into the Florida university system, as well as other internationally recognized universities.

The International Baccalaureate Program was established in Europe in 1968 as a means of providing a world-class education recognized throughout the world. Today, the IB program is offered in 3,600 primary, middle, and high schools in 147 countries. Rigorous and with high standards, the IB program is designed to promote international awareness and understanding, tolerance, and compassion, making IB student's responsible citizens and leaders. IB students become engaged critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida is committed to providing quality educational opportunities for all students regardless of background characteristics by providing each student an educational environment that enhances the individual's educational success. The School Board of Broward County, Florida is also committed to encouraging all parents to play an active role in their children's education and to increasing the educational options available to parents and students in the public schools. Finally, The School Board of Broward County, Florida is committed to providing settings for education that promote understanding of diversity, tolerance and fair play, so that the positive tenets of a democratic society are reinforced by what students experience in schools. In accordance with School Board Policy 4001.1, this policy supports an environment free of discrimination and harassment based upon age, race, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, sex or sexual orientation. (SBBC – Policy 5004.1)

Acceptance into a Broward County IB Magnet Program for high school students is based on academic performance. Exceptional education students with disabilities must meet magnet school entry requirements that will ensure the student's success in the magnet program. English Language Learners (ELL) must have state or nationally standardized test scores in

reading and/or mathematics and the GPA as required criteria for specific magnet programs as described in SBBC Policy 5004.1.

## **Academic Criteria for Admissions**

For all high school programs, unless otherwise noted, there is a review process for students who do not meet the following established entrance criteria for the International Baccalaureate program:

- Unweighted GPA of 3.0 (core subjects –English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies & Science)
- Level 4 or 5 on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) exam and Math End-of-Course (EOC) exam, or equivalent standardized assessment

## **Eligibility for Admissions**

Prospective students must apply on-line through the Broward County School Choice magnet office during the application window (Dec.-Feb.). Students must have an un-weighted GPA of 3.0 and a level 4 or 5 on previous state assessments. **Students seeking to continue MYP from middle school and later to the DP program are given priority, but they still must meet the aforementioned criteria.** After acceptance into Deerfield Beach High's IB program, students must maintain an unweighted GPA of 2.5 and continue to pass all state assessments and End of Course Exams. Students whose GPA falls below 2.5 will be placed on academic probation for a semester. If at that time, the student's GPA has not significantly improved, they will be removed from the magnet program. All 9th and 10th grade students wanting to apply to the IB program will need to be on track with state and district language and math requirements.

The parent(s)/guardian must secure a student identification number for their child(ren) from any Broward County Public School, if not currently registered with Broward County Public Schools, to be considered for a Magnet school/program. Applications will be accepted for requests in kindergarten through twelfth grade for students who meet the entrance requirements of the requested application grade. There are no eligibility criteria at the elementary level or at the "Growing STEM" middle school Magnet programs. Students that apply to a Magnet middle or high school (secondary) must meet eligibility criteria at the time of application. At the secondary level, the only eligibility criteria shall be as follows: 1. For the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, students must have a demonstrated record of academic achievement on the prior year's state standardized examination in English language arts and mathematics (or Algebra I, Algebra II or Geometry End-of-Course exam). Students must meet or exceed 4 on these exams. In addition, students must have a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. Students who do not have FAST/EOC scores must have a nationally recognized norm-referenced standardized examination with scores of 90th percentile or above in total reading and total mathematics and have a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics.

## **Admissions for Students with Diverse Needs**

The School Board of Broward County, Florida is committed to a definition of diversity that includes creating learning opportunities for students with diverse needs to participate in quality education environments and become active global citizens. Students with special needs, Exceptional Student Education (ESE) or student on a 504 Plan, shall be given equal opportunity to attend Magnet schools/programs in light of each student's need for special services. In the case of a student whose special needs require the development of an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)/504 Plan, eligibility criteria will be in accordance with Section II of this policy. 6. Students that are English Language Learners (ELL) who are actively enrolled in TERMS and classified as LY will be given an opportunity to participate in a Magnet program, even if they may not meet the identified eligibility criteria based upon the following: a. Secondary school ELL students must have a demonstrated record of academic achievement on the prior year's FAST in English language arts and mathematics (or End-of-Course exam). Students must meet or exceed 3.0 achievement level of the FAST. The ELL student must have met the criteria in either English language arts or math. In addition, students must have a minimum 2.5 unweighted GPA or better in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. b. For secondary school ELL students for whom FAST/EOC and/or norm-referenced standardized examination scores are unavailable, a student's portfolio demonstrating proficiency in reading or mathematics in English or the student's native language (for ELL student) and teacher recommendations may be utilized in place of examination scores. Students must have an unweighted GPA at or above the required unweighted GPA in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics for specific Magnet programs. For ELL students who have recently arrived in the United States, grades earned in the home country while still in residence there can be used. Names of ELL students who meet the above eligibility criteria through the alternative process will be placed into the qualified applicant pool. (SBBC – School Choice Policy 5004.1.2.5)

The School Board of Broward County, Florida is committed to a definition of diversity that includes students with special needs through the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department. These students shall be given equal opportunity to attend programs in light of each student's need for special services. In the case of a student whose special needs are addressed through an Individual Educational Plan (IEP)/504 Plan, attendance at a program must be consistent with the IEP/504 Plan. The following eligibility criteria and procedures will be used for acceptance of Exceptional Education Students (ESE other than Gifted) or students on a 504 Plan: A. The student's IEP/504 Plan will be reviewed to verify that the student's placement is not a special program placement. B. The student's IEP/504 Plan will be reviewed to make sure that there are not any extenuating special considerations that would keep the student from participating in the general education setting. C. The Student's IEP/504 Plan will be reviewed to make sure that the services will not be ending before the beginning of the next school year thus making the student no longer an ESE student or a student on a 504 Plan. D. Students that apply to a Magnet middle or high school (secondary) must meet eligibility criteria at the time of application. At the secondary level, the only eligibility criteria shall be as outlined in Section IV.2.A of this policy. Students who do not meet eligibility criteria may be considered eligible based on special circumstances and will have the opportunity to submit the information listed below to the Magnet school for review by a Magnet Review Panel Team. This Review Panel will

be comprised of Magnet coordinators and other appropriate personnel. The application review process may take into consideration:

1. Written recommendations of teachers and/or administrators,
2. A written explanation of special circumstances indicating the student's ability to succeed in a Magnet school/program compiled by both the sending school and the receiving Magnet school,
3. An interview with the student, where appropriate, and/or
4. A student's portfolio demonstrating proficiency at the assigned grade level in reading and/or mathematics in English and/or the student's native language.

Should it be determined that a requested school is not able to provide the services identified on the student's IEP/504 Plan, the applicant shall be advised of such and may pursue school choice through the McKay Scholarship Program as outlined in section IV.8 of this policy. If a student's IEP/504 Plan needs cannot be met while attending a choice school/program at any time during the school year, the student will be removed from the choice school and assigned to the appropriate school that is able to provide the identified service(s) in alignment with the student's IEP/504 Plan.

## **Application Process**

Applications to the International Baccalaureate program are accepted December - February each calendar year. If a student is currently enrolled in a Broward County Public School, but Deerfield Beach High School is not their home/assigned school, they can apply for admissions to the IB program through the Broward County School Choice Magnet Program website.

If Deerfield Beach High School is a student's home/assigned high school and they want to be considered for a seat in the IB Magnet Program, they may contact the IB office to request a review of their FAST/EOC scores and GPA. If the student meets all of the admissions' criteria they are awarded a seat in the IB program.

## **Policy Distribution & Review**

All Deerfield Beach High School IB policies are posted on the Deerfield Beach High School website available for download and easy printing format.

All Deerfield Beach IB policies are reviewed annually and are subject to revision.

## **References and Resources**

Broward County Public Schools

