El Dorado High School

International Baccalaureate (IB) Program

The right choice for ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES.

#TeamSISD

Socorro Independent School District
Leading • Inspiring • Innovating
El Dorado High School IB Program

What is an IB education?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program continuum of international education for 3 to 19 year olds is unique because of its academic and personal rigour. We challenge our students to excel in their studies and in their personal growth. We aim to inspire a quest for learning throughout life that is marked by enthusiasm and empathy.

The IB aspirers to help schools develop well-rounded students with character who respond to challenges with optimism and an open mind, are confident in their own identities, make ethical decisions, join with others in celebrating our common humanity and are prepared to apply what they learn in real-world, complex and unpredictable situations.

The IB offers high-quality programmes of international education that share a powerful vision. Informed by the values described in the learning profile of an IB education:

- focuses on learners - the IB student-centred programmes promote healthy relationships, ethical responsibility and personal challenge
- develops effective approaches to teaching and learning - IB programmes help students to develop the attitudes and skills they need for both academic and personal success
- works within global contexts - IB programmes increase understanding of languages and cultures, and explore globally significant ideas and issues
- explores significant content - IB programmes offer a curriculum that is broad and balanced, conceptual and connected.

IB learners strive to become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. These attributes represent a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond intellectual development and academic success.

What is the IB Diploma Programme (DP)?

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepares students, aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond. It has been designed to address the intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being of students. The programme has gained recognition and respect from the world’s leading universities. The Diploma Programme prepares students for effective participation in a rapidly evolving and increasingly global society as they:

- develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically
- acquire breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, studying courses from six subject groups
- develop the skills and a positive attitude towards learning that will prepare them for higher education
- study at least two languages and increase understanding of cultures, in their own
- make connections across traditional academic disciplines and explore the nature of knowledge through the programme’s unique theory of knowledge course

undertake in-depth research into an area of interest through the lens of one or more academic disciplines in the extended essay
- enhance their personal and interpersonal development through creativity, action and service.

The curriculum

IB Diploma Programme students must choose one subject from each of the five groups (1 to 5), ensuring breadth of knowledge and understanding in their best language, additional language(s), the social sciences, the experimental sciences and mathematics. Students must also choose either an arts subject from group 6, or a second subject from groups 1 to 5.

DP subjects can be taken at higher level or standard level. At least three and not more than four subjects are taken at higher level (240 teaching hours), while the other subjects are taken at standard level (150 teaching hours). Students can study and take examinations, in English, French or Spanish.

Two DP subjects are classified as interdisciplinary subjects and so satisfy the requirements of more than one subject group:

- Literature and performance - group 1 and group 6
- Environmental systems - group 3 and group 4

In addition to disciplinary and interdisciplinary study, the Diploma Programme features three core elements that broaden students’ educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills:

The Diploma Programme core

• The extended essay: asks students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the DP subjects they are studying. The world extended essay option allows students to focus on a topic of global significance which they examine through the lens of at least two DP subjects.

• Theory of knowledge: develops a coherent approach to learning that unifies the academic disciplines. In this course an critical thinking, students inquire into the nature of knowing and deepen their understanding of knowledge as a human construction.

Course Sequence

Excellence by Design

The Socorro ISD continuously seeks ways to prepare all students to be college and career ready upon graduating from high school. To meet the early stages of their educational career, students in the District are challenged and encouraged to continually broaden their horizons and prepare to become productive citizens of the community.

Meeting the goals of producing 21st century citizens and graduating students ready to successfully compete in a global economy, the District offers diverse high school opportunities for students. Each of the District’s five comprehensive high schools and Mission Early College High School offer unique learning models tailored to meet students’ specific needs and support their educational and career aspirations. Known as advanced studies programs, these innovative curricular courses of study provide students with the opportunity to:

- pursue a specialized area of study and intensity of college-level work while in high school.
- reduce the duplication of courses taken in high school and college.
- shorten the time needed to complete an undergraduate degree or vocational certification.
- save money on college tuition and fees, textbooks, housing and transportation.
- increase their opportunities in the competition for college admissions, scholarships, and jobs in their workforce.

From science and mathematics to a global study of humanity and society, El Dorado High School’s advanced studies programs prepare students to thrive in the ever-changing global economy. Enrollment for these special programs is open to all Socorro ISD students.

Program Enrollment and Contact

Students planning to enroll in the IB program take honor (IB Prep) classes during their freshman and sophomore years. In the final two years of high school, candidates take courses in six areas in preparation for IB’s international examinations. Students are accepted based on elementary and middle school academic achievement and the contents of the school academic achievement and the contents of the program application. An average of 75-100 freshman students will be accepted to the program each year.

For more information on the El Dorado HS IB Diploma program, please contact program coordinators Aileen Hernandez at 937-7338/ pherna07@sisd.net. To learn more about the IB, please visit www.ibo.org. 

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• creativity, action, service (CAS) involves students in a range of activities alongside their academic studies throughout the Diploma Programme. Creativity encourages students to engage in the arts and creative thinking. Action seeks to develop a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. Service with the community offers a vehicle for new learning with academic value. The three strands of CAS encourage students’ personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning and enable journeys of self-discovery.

1. IB English
2. IB English Language
3. IB History Of The Americas
4. IB Chemistry
5. IB Mathematics
6. IB Elective
7. Theory of Knowledge

1. IB Prep English
2. IB Prep French Language
3. IB Prep World Geography
4. IB Prep Biology
5. IB Prep Algebra I
6. IB Prep Geometry
7. PE
8. Fine Arts
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