

# The Middle Years Programme: A guide for school leaders



The Middle Years Programme (MYP), for students aged 11 to 16, is designed as an inclusive, whole-school programme by the International Baccalaureate (IB), a not-for-profit organization supporting the education of more than 1 million students every year in over 3,900 schools in 147 countries. IB programmes provide a continuum of international education for students aged 3 to 19. The MYP represents a positive investment that offers benefits to students, teachers and other stakeholders in your learning community.

## Students benefit: Skills for success in further learning and life beyond the classroom

The MYP:

- provides an education that prepares students to be competitive on a global stage, building the skills valued by parents and employers
- develops students who are self-directed, self-regulated, independent and autonomous learners
- stimulates critical and creative thinking through inquiry-based, student-centred education
- emphasizes approaches to learning (ATL), a unifying thread throughout all MYP subject groups that helps students learn how to learn, not just what to learn
- encourages the application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts
- develops students as responsible members of their local, national and global communities who strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective
- creates personal relevance and encourages understanding of cultures and environments across global contexts
- results in students who are global learners, aware of connections between disciplines and to the larger world.

## Teachers benefit: A culture of learning

The IB:

- establishes a learning community of shared practice using a common language for teaching and learning
- provides world-class professional development, resources for teaching and learning, and on-site evaluations and consultations to help schools assess their readiness and prepare for implementation
- connects teachers and educational leaders with a global network of high-quality schools and practitioners.

## Schools benefit: Standards and assessment

The IB's curriculum framework is flexible and can be used to deliver any national or local content standards and is compatible with national standards.

Along with the introduction of mandatory moderation of the personal project, 2016 sees an exciting innovation in the optional assessment for the MYP. The new optional MYP eAssessment provides external evaluation for students in year 5 (15–16 years old) that leads to the internationally recognized IB MYP certificate.

MYP eAssessment represents a balanced, appropriately-challenging model that comprises examinations and coursework.

Two-hour onscreen examinations in four subject groups (language and literature, sciences, mathematics, individuals and societies) and in interdisciplinary learning are individually marked by IB examiners. Portfolios of student work for four subject groups (language acquisition, physical and health education, arts, and design) are moderated by IB examiners to international standards.

These innovative assessments focus on conceptual understanding and the ability to apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations. They offer robust and reliable assessment of student achievement in the MYP.

## Research-demonstrated impact

Research studies provide evidence that MYP students tend to distinguish themselves from their non-IB peers. Consider the following recent findings (available on [www.ibo.org/research](http://www.ibo.org/research)):

- MYP students perform as well as, or better than, their peers at non-IB World Schools on international assessments, including assessments in maths literacy, reading, narrative writing and expository writing.
- Enrolment in the MYP appears to have a positive impact on global-mindedness.
- MYP students are more likely to engage in student service learning projects in school and to participate in volunteer activities outside of school.

The MYP is also considered a strong predictor of performance in the IB Diploma Programme (DP).

*“What the world cares about is not what our students know, but what they can do with what they know.”*

Tony Wagner, a fellow at the Technology and Entrepreneurship Center at Harvard University and author of *The Global Achievement Gap*

## Pass rates of MYP students in the Diploma Programme

(Information source: IB internal data systems [IBIS])

The data presented here compares pass rates of former MYP students from moderating schools, with the whole cohort of DP students.

Result DP	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	All candidates	MYP	All candidates	MYP	All candidates	MYP	All candidates	MYP
Pass rate	78%	87%	78%	85.2%	78%	84.9%	78.4%	83.8%
Students achieving 40+	5.4%	6.9%	5.2%	6.7%	5.8%	7.6%	6.6%	7.4%
Pass rate bilingual DP	24.5%	36.6%	24.1%	39.9%	24%	41.5%	24.5%	40%



### For further information

please visit the IB website: [www.ibo.org/myp](http://www.ibo.org/myp)



Interested in learning more about the MYP?  
Watch a video, download brochures  
and read more online!