

**Questions/Answers**  
**St. Louis Park Public Schools' International Baccalaureate Programme**  
**March 2008**

**What is International Baccalaureate (IB)?**

IB is an internationally recognized teaching method that provides our students with a world-class education. IB offers an international education for students and includes three components: Primary Years (ages 3-12), Middle Years (ages 11-16) and Diploma (ages 16-19). St. Louis Park Public Schools has offered the Diploma Programme for the past seven years, and is in the application phase of offering a fully authorized Primary Years Programme (PYP).

IB PYP uses inquiry, international focus and collaboration throughout the school day to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people. Students still have reading, writing, math, social studies, physical education and art, but they are taught using the IB framework, integrating subjects and exploring information from a global viewpoint. Students also receive weekly Spanish instruction.

**How many students are benefiting from the IB Primary Years Programme?**

A total of 1,658 K-6 students are benefiting from the IB Primary Years Programme. This number does not include students at Park Spanish Immersion School, which is another important way the district provides students with a global perspective.

**How can the district continue to move forward with implementing the IB Primary Years Programme in light of the current budget reduction?**

St. Louis Park Public Schools is one of six statewide recipients to receive a two-year grant from the Minnesota Department of Education to expand our IB Programmes. Over \$500,000 was awarded to the district to continue the work of training teachers in PYP, writing PYP curriculum, exploring the Middle Years Programme (MYP) at the secondary level, and expanding opportunities for high school students with regard to the Diploma Programme. Some costs that would have come from SLP operating funds will be paid through this grant.

**How much does the IB Primary Years Programme cost to implement?**

The cost to run the IB Primary Years Programme is less than 1% of the total General Fund budget. The following is a breakdown of costs that are currently paid for out of the General Fund:

- Salaries/benefits (four .5 IB coordinators, four Spanish teachers) \$316,302
- Curriculum Writing \$55,245
- Fees to International Baccalaureate Organization \$4,000
- Media Center instructional supplies \$8,000

The District will continue to pursue grant opportunities such as the grant outlined above, as well as look at integration and other existing revenue sources as a way to continue to fund IB PYP in the future.

**Why is it important for the IB Primary Years Programme to stay in place?**

IB provides a teaching framework focused on improving student achievement for all students. The reality is that we are in a competitive marketplace, competing for students with not only private, but neighboring public school districts as well. It is more important than ever before to provide students and families with high quality educational choices that provide results.

Many things make the St. Louis Park Public Schools unique. Some of these include excellent teachers and staff, a commitment to ensure that all students have access to equal, high-quality educational opportunities, and small neighborhood schools with individual attention. In addition, St. Louis Park is one of only two districts in the state that is currently in the process of implementing IB for students from pre-school through high school. By attracting more students to our schools, we greatly improve the long-term financial health of our district. Each new student generates approximately \$6,000 in revenue for the district.

