When was the first IB programme authorized in Michigan, and how has the IB grown in the state?

The first IB Diploma Programme (DP) was authorized in 1978 at Detroit Country Day School, a private school in Beverly Hills. The first public school to implement the Diploma, in 1997, was the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills. Two more schools were authorized in 1998.

Beginning in 2006, the IB began expanding more rapidly across the state. Over the past five years, the IB has grown exponentially. Thirteen schools began implementing IB programmes in 2009, doubling the IB’s presence in a single year.

The first IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) was authorized in 2007 at Andover High School, and the first IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) was authorized in 2007 at Lone Pine Elementary School.

How many IB World Schools are present in the state today, which programmes do they implement, and what is their status?

There are currently 31 IB World Schools in Michigan, implementing 33 IB programmes (given that 2 schools implement more than one programme).

The largest proportion of IB programmes in the state are DP, although the MYP and PYP have substantially increased their presence in the past two years.

The majority of IB World Schools in Michigan are public (90%). There are three private IB World Schools in the state.
Where are IB World Schools located?

The largest number of public IB World Schools are located in Oakland County (9), followed by Genesee County (3) and Wayne County (3). The remaining 16 public IB World Schools are spread across 9 additional counties.

The city of Bloomfield Hills has the largest concentration of IB World Schools (3 schools). There are five cities with two IB World Schools each: Fenton, Midland, Portage, Saginaw and Troy. The rest are found in 18 other localities across the state.

What are the prospects for future growth of IB programmes in the state?

The total number of IB programmes in Michigan may increase more than fourfold in the near future, given the number of schools that are currently candidates for authorization (53), or that have expressed interest in becoming candidates (48). This brings the potential number of IB World Schools in the state to 132.

A COMMITMENT TO EXPANDING ACCESS: PROFILE OF IB STUDENTS

What is the ethnic and economic background of students at Michigan’s public PYP schools?

At three of the five public IB World Schools implementing the PYP in Michigan, 40% or more of students were from non-White ethnic backgrounds.

Norup International School has the largest proportion of Black students (36%), while Morse Elementary School has the largest proportion of Asian students (40%).

Handley School is one of the most diverse, while Tomek-Eastern Elementary School is the most homogeneous.

The percentage of low-income students at these schools ranges from less than 1% at Lone Pine Elementary to more than 22% at Tomek-Eastern Elementary.
What is the ethnic and economic background of IB Diploma candidates?

In 2010, more than three fourths of IB Diploma candidates in Michigan were white; the largest proportion of minority candidates were Asian or Pacific Islander.

In terms of economic background, 4.2% of IB Diploma candidates came from a low-income background in 2010, as measured by their eligibility to receive a free/reduced lunch at school.

A RECORD OF SUCCESS: PROFILE OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

How successful have IB high school students been in passing IB exams and obtaining the full IB Diploma?

The total number of IB exams taken has increased by nearly 1,000 over the past 5 years, reaching 2,062 in 2009.

The total number of Diplomas awarded has also steadily increased over the past five years. In 2009, there were 209 IB Diploma candidates, of whom 194 were awarded the Diploma (93%).

Each year since 2005, 88% or more of all Diploma candidates have successfully obtained one, and more than 86% of all IB exam takers have obtained grades of 4 or above.*

* Note: No data available for 2006.

The International Academy: nationally recognized for academic excellence

The International Academy, an IB World School since 1997, was the first public school in Michigan to implement the IB Diploma. Today, it has been recognized as one of the top high schools by US News & World Report, which in 2009 ranked it first among US public high schools implementing IB, and second among all public high schools in the nation. Newsweek’s 2009 list of top high schools has also ranked this school #22 in the nation, for its capacity to challenge all of its students with rigorous coursework.

The school receives Title I funding and its enrollment is 60% White, 36% Asian, 1% Hispanic, and 2% Black. It has an IB participation rate of 100%, and is the first public school in the US to enroll all students in the Diploma Programme. Its success rate is also high: 95.3% of all students taking an IB exam earn a score of 4 or higher.

For more information about the International Academy, see: http://www.iatoday.org/
RECOGNITION OF THE IB ADVANTAGE: STATE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

How do state policies and legislation currently support IB programmes?

- As an overall policy, the Michigan Department of Education “supports establishing International Baccalaureate Programmes (IB) at all levels offered.”

- The Michigan Merit Curriculum, the state’s required course of studies for high school graduation, may be completed through “participation in the International Baccalaureate program or an early college/middle college program.”

- At the end of 2009, the Michigan Department of Education launched Project ReImagine, an effort to spur innovative education reform strategies through public-private partnerships at the district level. Fourteen “demonstration districts” are currently receiving state support through this project, two of which have included IB in their proposals. Oxford Community Schools plans to establish a year-round PreK-12th grade continuum of IB programmes, and Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District hopes to implement an IB programme for grades 5 to 10, and a regional IB Diploma programme magnet school for grades 11 and 12.

- The state provides financial support for low-income IB students through the federal AP and IB Test Fee Program.

How do universities and colleges in Michigan recognize the rigor of IB courses?

Out of 15 Michigan universities listed by IB recognition services, all award credit or placement on a course-by course basis for Higher Level IB courses, generally with minimum scores of 4 or 5, and all award credit to IB Certificate holders. Less than half of these universities accept the IB Diploma as a credential for admission, however.

Four universities award credit for one or more SL courses: Delta College, Kettering University, Lawrence Technological University, and the University of Michigan at Dearborn.
Partnering with IB to provide professional development: Oakland University

Through a recently launched IB professional development initiative, seven universities around the world have partnered with IB to offer undergraduate and graduate courses of study on the principles and practices associated with each of the three IB programmes. Those who successfully complete these courses will also be eligible for an IB teacher award, which recognizes the understanding of IB that teachers have acquired during their course of study and research.

In Michigan, Oakland University’s School of Education and Human Services has developed an 18 month program for IB educators, in partnership with the International Academy (an IB World School profiled above). The course of study focuses on five key areas: Introduction to the IB Philosophy; Global and International Education; Teaching, Learning and the IB Curriculum; Assessment in IB Programmes; and Professional Learning through Action Research. Students actively apply IB theory and methodology, through experienced mentors who teach in IB classrooms. At the end of their courses, participants are eligible for the IB Level I teacher award in all three programmes.

For more information, see: http://www.oakland.edu/ib