

District Showcase: International Baccalaureate Session Chat Summary

This session from June 1, 2022, included a lively chat exchange. The questions and responses included below have been edited for clarity.

QUESTION:

Does Groton or IB offer supports for students from low-income families to cover costs related to IB, especially the exam fees?

Kelley Donovan, Groton Public Schools (GPS) Diploma Programme (DP) Coordinator responded:

Yes, the Board of Education pays all IB expenses. The average pupil costs for exams and fees is now around \$800.00 per student. IB eliminated additional registration fees a couple of years ago, which helped a lot.

QUESTION:

Do colleges accept IB for college credit?

Kelley Donovan, GPS DP Coordinator responded:

It depends. IB has a [spreadsheet](#) that allows you to see credit by course/country/college. Many schools are awarding elective credits (Note: IB plans to launch an [online database of recognition policies](#) in 2022). The [University of Rhode Island](#) is very generous when accepting IB for credit. [University of Connecticut](#) is less so. [Southern Connecticut State University](#) gives a lot of credit for students who completed the IB Diploma Programme or took IB exams. In the United Kingdom, students can graduate in three years with a Bachelor's degree. This is true in Canada too, and both countries are very affordable when compared to the in-state UConn rate.

QUESTION:

Does the IB career program include any industry specific credentials or certificates?

Kelley Donovan, GPS DP Coordinator responded:

Yes. IB requires a partner for each career area.

Anne Keefe-Forbotnick, Coordinator of IB Career-related Programme (CP) added:

For the IB CP, an example would be for our culinary pathway we are establishing a relationship with ServSafe for industry standards. We have aligned with Project Lead the Way as well. When our students take the CNA exam, this counts as a relationship with industry.

QUESTION:

Can students advance between grades?

Kelley Donovan, GPS DP Coordinator responded:

At Groton Middle School, students take non-leveled electives that have Grades 6, 7, and 8 combined. Those electives are interest-driven such as Project Lead the Way. We also double-seat AP/IB where appropriate.

Kelley Donovan, GPS DP Coordinator added:

If you have questions, email me at kdonovan@groton.k12.ct.us.