



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1017		DATE: 2/19/2025
COMMITTEE: Higher Education and Workforce Development		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALISA CASADY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: alisa.casady@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 8:43 AM
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I am in support of this bill to give IB students credit for scoring a 4 or above on exams.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALIYA RECTOR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arector583@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 7:27 PM
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I support having student's test scores of 4 or above to get IB credit.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY DABALOS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: christy.dabalos@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 7:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

My name is [Your Name], and I am the President of the Midwest International Baccalaureate World Schools Association, representing IB programs across Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Our mission is to uphold the standards of the International Baccalaureate (IB) organization, ensuring that participating schools have access to the information and resources they need while also promoting the value of IB programs. The IB curriculum is internationally recognized for its rigor and alignment with freshman-level college coursework. Each IB course requires students to complete an in-depth research assignment, fostering critical thinking, analytical reasoning, inquiry-based learning, and meaningful discussion. Through this process, students learn not just to absorb information but to evaluate and generate their own well-supported ideas and perspectives. IB is widely recognized by universities across the United States and around the world, with many institutions granting credit or advanced standing for IB coursework. A similar legislative measure has been enacted for Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and IB programs offer an equally rigorous, if not more comprehensive, academic experience. Ensuring that IB students receive the same recognition and benefits will support Missouri students, strengthen our state's education system, and encourage these highly prepared students to pursue their higher education at Missouri institutions. I strongly encourage your support of this bill. It is a step toward educational equity for our students, a benefit for Missouri families, and a strategic move to attract top-performing students to our state's colleges and universities. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTY DABALOS		PHONE NUMBER: 816-820-8410	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MIDWEST IB WORLD SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: MIBS PRESIDENT AND LEE'S SUMMIT WEST IB COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 1131 SW SANTA FE DR			
CITY: LEE'S SUMMIT		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64081
EMAIL: christy.dabalos@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/5/2025 9:13 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Testimony to the Higher Education Committee Chairperson Brown, Members of the Committee, My name is Christy Dabalos, and I am the President of the Midwest International Baccalaureate World Schools Association, representing IB programs across Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Our mission is to uphold the standards of the International Baccalaureate (IB) organization, ensuring that participating schools have access to the information and resources they need while also promoting the value of IB programs. The IB curriculum is internationally recognized for its rigor and alignment with freshman-level college coursework. Each IB course requires students to complete an in-depth research assignment, fostering critical thinking, analytical reasoning, inquiry-based learning, and meaningful discussion. Through this process, students learn not just to absorb information but to evaluate and generate their own well-supported ideas and perspectives. IB is widely recognized by universities across the United States and around the world, with many institutions granting credit or advanced standing for IB coursework. A similar legislative measure has been enacted for Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and IB programs offer an equally rigorous, if not more comprehensive, academic experience. Ensuring that IB students receive the same recognition and benefits will support Missouri students, strengthen our state's education system, and encourage these highly prepared students to pursue their higher education at Missouri institutions. I strongly encourage your support of this bill. It is a step toward educational equity for our students, a benefit for Missouri families, and a strategic move to attract top-performing students to our state's colleges and universities. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully, Christy Dabalos, President, Midwest International Baccalaureate World Schools Association, IB Coordinator, Lee's Summit West High School



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH SCHAEFER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: elizabeth.schaefer@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 2:57 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ELLEN HUNTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ellenhunter9973@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 10:46 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am a teacher of IB mathematics in Missouri and a former IB student. As someone with quite a few years of experience with these programs, I can confirm that the level of rigor and depth of study that students engage in is worthy of credit at the university level. For students who score at least a 4 on these examinations at least entry level course credit should be offered in recognition of their demonstrated skills in that subject area. In my personal university experience, many of my first year college courses were easier than the IB courses that I had just completed. I believe the bill will also support Missouri universities by attracting IB graduates to enroll here rather than seeking higher education elsewhere. There were several Missouri schools that I personally did not consider when selecting a college because they did not offer any or significant credit for IB courses. I ultimately chose to attend an undergraduate program out of state largely due to how well that school gave recognition and credit for my IB coursework. Creating a standard where success on IB examinations is rewarded by Missouri universities would provide a positive incentive that many students (both Missouri residents and from out of state) will respond to. Specifically in regards to mathematics, a 4 or higher in any IB mathematics course should indicate sufficient knowledge to earn credit for an entry level college mathematics course (College Algebra, Algebraic Reasoning and Modeling, or equivalent). A 4 in a Higher Level IB mathematics course or a 6-7 in Standard Level IB mathematics course could easily justify credit for additional math courses. (Statistics, Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus, or Calculus I, could all be appropriate depending on the specific course and the score)



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EMMY HARMON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: eharmon646@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 7:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As an IBCP student, years of accelerated classes and hard work led me to be a stronger, well rounded student. I am in full support of college credit for IB classes, and this would encourage more students to get a college education for those who make not have the funds. For the sake of all Missourians, I urge you to support this legislation.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GRETCHEN HUBINGER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ghubinger@academielafayette.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 8:29 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am writing to you as an educator deeply committed to the advancement of our students in Missouri. I currently teach in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme, and I am reaching out to ask for your support for the upcoming bills regarding the recognition of IB courses in our state educational system. Our students work incredibly hard to meet the rigorous standards set by the IB Programme. Achieving a score of 4 or higher on these exams is no small feat and reflects a level of proficiency that numerous universities across the nation and globally recognize. Leading institutions like the University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska have set precedents by granting college credit for these scores, acknowledging the rigor and depth of our curriculum. By supporting this bill, you will not only align Missouri with these leading educational standards but also enhance the educational pathways for our state's youth, providing them with well-deserved recognition and support. This change would significantly benefit our students by making higher education more accessible and affordable, thereby encouraging a more educated and prepared workforce.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: HAILEY BARNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hbarnett655@lsr7.net		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 7:48 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am writing to express my strong support for Missouri Bill HB 1017, introduced by Representative Brown, which advocates for the recognition of International Baccalaureate (IB) Examinations. As an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate, I can personally attest to the transformative impact this program has had on my educational journey. The IB program is renowned for its rigorous academic standards and its emphasis on critical thinking, global awareness, and holistic learning. It has challenged me in ways no other educational program has, pushing me to explore the depths of my knowledge and develop a nuanced understanding of complex subjects. The curriculum is designed to cultivate well-rounded individuals who are prepared to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world. Every day, I dedicate countless hours to preparing for the demanding IB examinations. These exams are not only a testament to our academic prowess but also a reflection of our dedication and perseverance. The workload we undertake is on par with, if not more challenging than, that of many college students. Recognizing the IB examinations through this bill would provide us with the college credit we rightfully deserve, acknowledging the hard work and commitment we have invested in our education. Passing HB 1017 would elevate Missouri's educational standards and demonstrate a commitment to fostering academic excellence. It would also send a powerful message to students like myself, affirming that our efforts and achievements are valued and supported. We are the future of this state, and by supporting our education, you are investing in a brighter, more knowledgeable, and capable generation. I urge you to support Missouri Bill HB 1017 and help us receive the recognition and credit we have worked so tirelessly to earn. Thank you for your consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAY PITTS-ZEVIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jay.zevin@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 5:52 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1017, which would expand college credit recognition for International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) courses, granting credit for scores of 4 or higher at public colleges and universities in Missouri. As a high school educator and IB teacher, I see firsthand the rigor and dedication required of students pursuing the IB Diploma, and I urge you to support this critical legislation. Currently, students who complete IB courses and earn a score of 4 or above demonstrate college-level mastery, yet many institutions in Missouri do not consistently award credit for these achievements. The University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska have already taken steps to recognize IB coursework more equitably, setting a precedent for Missouri to follow. By aligning with these neighboring states, Missouri can remain competitive in attracting and retaining top students who seek rigorous academic preparation before entering college. The IB Diploma Programme is a challenging, internationally respected curriculum that fosters critical thinking and global engagement. By recognizing IB scores of 4 or higher for college credit, Missouri can support its students in their transition to higher education while reinforcing the state's commitment to academic excellence. I urge you to support HB 1017 and help ensure that Missouri's IB students receive the credit they have earned. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JEREMY VANPELT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jeremy.vanpelt@slps.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 1:48 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am the International Baccalaureate Coordinator at Metro Academic and Classical High School, part of the Saint Louis Public School system. Metro stands as one of the top schools, if not the top public school in Missouri. Much of the reason for this is that we are the only school in SLPS to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. This program offers students of Saint Louis access to the most rigorous curriculum available to students in the region. While Advanced Placement courses are more ubiquitous in the United States and known for their challenging content, IB courses provide curricula even more rigorous than AP courses. Many of the top colleges and universities seek out students who have completed the IB Diploma Programme or individual IB courses. For these reasons, International Baccalaureate course should receive equal college credit consideration as Advanced Placement courses.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JODI PITTS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jdпиты@spsmail.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 3:13 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHERINE THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: katherine.thompson@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 12:52 PM

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I am in support of both HB 1017. I am an IB Math teacher in Missouri and this would be great for our IB program at my school and other schools.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KATY WILSON		PHONE NUMBER: 816-805-2815	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACADEMIE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT		TITLE: IB COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 201 E. ARMOUR BLVD			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64111
EMAIL: kwilson@academielafayette.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 2:51 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 291, which seek to grant college credit to students who earn a score of 4 or higher on International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations. My name is Katy Wilson, and I am here as a concerned educator and parent to emphasize the importance of recognizing the achievements of Missouri’s students who have undertaken the rigorous IB program. I have worked in International Baccalaureate World Schools in Missouri public schools for more than twenty years. I currently manage IB programs at Académie Lafayette, which has a new high school that focuses on supporting all of its students to be IB students. Most of our high school graduates last year, and many of our soon-to-be graduates this year, are choosing to attend universities outside of Missouri because the University of Missouri is not competitive when it comes to rewarding students for their hard work and success in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. The IB program is one of the most challenging high school curricula available. It is designed to prepare students for success in higher education and beyond. IB courses require students to develop critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a global perspective—all qualities that colleges and universities highly value. Currently, Missouri’s public colleges and universities have inconsistent policies regarding credit for IB exam scores, creating unnecessary obstacles for students who have demonstrated their college readiness. Granting college credit for a score of 4 or above on IB exams will have several key benefits: **Increases College Accessibility and Affordability:** Many Missouri students work hard to complete IB courses in the hope of reducing their future college costs. Recognizing IB scores for credit will help students and families save thousands of dollars in tuition and fees, making higher education more accessible, especially for students from low-income backgrounds. **Aligns Missouri with National Best Practices:** Many states, including Texas, Florida, and California, already grant college credit for IB scores of 4 or higher. Missouri risks falling behind in attracting and retaining talented students if we do not align our policies with national standards. **Encourages Academic Excellence and Equity:** By ensuring that students receive credit for their hard work, Missouri will incentivize more high school students to enroll in IB programs, fostering a culture of academic excellence. Additionally, this policy promotes fairness, as students who complete similarly rigorous programs, such as Advanced Placement (AP), already receive college credit for comparable scores. **Supports Workforce Development:** IB courses emphasize skills such as analytical thinking, research, and communication—key competencies needed in today’s workforce. Encouraging students to pursue IB and rewarding them for their achievements will help develop a stronger, more prepared workforce for Missouri’s economy. Passing HB 291 and HB 1017 is a necessary step to support Missouri’s students, promote equitable access to higher education, and enhance our state’s competitiveness. I urge you to support this legislation and ensure that Missouri students receive the credit they deserve for their hard work and dedication. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions

you may have.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KAYLA MAID		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kayla.maid@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 1:55 PM
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I support Missouri House Bill 1017, which ensures that students receive college credit for their International Baccalaureate (IB) exams, similar to how Advanced Placement (AP) exams are recognized. This bill provides students with greater opportunities to earn college credit while in high school, making higher education more accessible and affordable. At Lee's Summit West High School, we strive to prepare students for postsecondary success, and HB 1017 reinforces the value of rigorous academic programs like IB by recognizing students' hard work and achievement.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LARA SCHULENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: lara.schulenberg.cole@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 8:23 PM
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The work that International Baccalaureate students do is steeped in critical thinking and advanced expression. Students should be recognized for taking on this challenge and maneuvering successfully through exams. To achieve a 4 or above on IB exams means that the student is capable of advanced thinking in a subject, but also has the ability to write or speak about the content. The state of Missouri needs to recognize this achievement with college credit.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LARRY SHAEFER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: llshaefer@spsmail.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 10:39 AM
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As an International Baccalaureate educator of Theory of Knowledge, Personal and Professional Skills, and Psychology courses, I can testify that the education that my students receive through the IB curriculum is above most lower-level college courses. My students continually contact me and tell me how easy their college courses are in the first two years of their experience. This is in part due to the rigorous curriculum IB provides in the areas of approaches to learning, Inquiry, research, and writing. Students who receive top scores in the IB program and earn the diploma are hard-working individuals who go on to reach a high degree of success in post-graduate programs. If more schools would award IB students credit for our students, it would increase enrollment in the IB program and give students more choices when thinking about which universities to attend. The passage of HB 1017 would also allow students to save money on tuition. Also, students would be allowed to direct their focus on advanced classes that pertain to their overall educational goals.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MADISON COCHRAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: cochranmm1990@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 10:22 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I have been an IB Biology teacher for 6 years and have seen first hand the value that this program has given my students in terms of the scientific knowledge and skill they develop and how they have both set them up for success in a collegiate science program. Having taken many college level biology courses, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, I can confidently say that what my students learn as part of my high school IB course far exceeds anything I experienced at the 100 or 200 level. Because of that, I am fully in support of offering college credit for anyone earning a 4 or above on the IB exam. In doing so, students have shown that they are more than capable of performing at a collegiate level and should be able to move ahead in their program instead of having to repeat content they have already shown they have mastered.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHELLE EDWARDS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: michelle.edwards@lsr7.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 3:32 PM
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I am the IB Coordinator at Lee's Summit High School. We have been an IB World School since 1987 and have had thousands of students take IB exams. IB college credit is accepted in over 159 countries around the world and is one of the premier ways to earn college credit. Passing the bills associated with students in Missouri receiving college credit for earning a 4 or higher on IB HL and SL exams would substantially benefit our students. More importantly, it would help keep our brightest students in Missouri instead of losing them to colleges in other states that already have a bill that awards automatic IB credit for scores of 4 or higher.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MITSI NESSA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mitsi.nessa@nkcschools.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 8:02 PM

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I've submitted information for Representative Strickler's bill. However, I think it would also be valuable to see just how reputable the IB experience is at some of our nation's most selective universities. This website shows acceptance rates for the general population vs. the acceptance rates for International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students: https://pages.crimsoneducation.org/rs/039-NBM-750/images/FL-10-2018-ib-student-acceptance-rates-at-top-us-universities.pdf?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWTJaalltRTJOV0kzT1#::~:~:text=is%20available%20here.,IB%20Course%20Credits%20Awarded?,help%20you%20activate%20it%20here.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1017		DATE: 2/19/2025
COMMITTEE: Higher Education and Workforce Development		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MOLLY GRAY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: mgray@spsmail.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 10:25 AM

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I strongly support the proposed HB1017 ensures students who score a 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate (IB) exam receive college credit at state institutions. Recognizing the rigor and academic excellence of the IB program, this policy will reward students for their hard work, make higher education more accessible, and incentivize academic achievement. By granting credit for IB exam performance, Missouri can reduce financial burdens on families, promote college readiness, and attract high-achieving students to its universities. This initiative aligns with the state’s commitment to academic excellence and workforce development, ensuring that Missouri remains competitive in higher education and beyond. As the IB Diploma Program Coordinator at Central High School, and as long time IB Diploma course teacher, I can speak first hand to the rigor and the advantages that IB courses and programs provide to students. My own son completed the Diploma Program last year, and my youngest son is about to start it next year. It is one of the very best college (and life) preparatory programs that students have access to, and it has opened countless doors for our students over the 27 years it has been at Central.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MORGAN RIGNELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: morganerignell@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2025 8:07 PM
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This would likely increase the amount of kids who go through an IB class, or multiple IB classes. IB offers an amazing opportunity with nearly (or exactly) college level courses. More kids would join the program if they knew they had the possibility of college credit!



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL EPPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: prepps@spsmail.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/19/2025 8:21 AM	

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I have taught the IB class, Environmental Systems and Societies, for twelve years. I have also taught honors science classes and general science classes. There is no comparison between these classes. IB classes demand much more from a student. The level of academic work expected from them is in line with what a college class expects than a high school class. I have many students who struggle initially with the workload and the quality required in writing, statistics, reading level, and ability to discuss concepts with their peers. Most reach this level and thrive; this is evidenced by a score of four or better on the IB exams and Internal Assessment (an individual research project which allows them to demonstrate their mastery of practical applications in each area). Those who are unable to reach this level score 2-3 in the class demonstrating their need for additional academic growth. The students I have had who score a four or better come back and tell me their first year of college was easy, that the IB curriculum and criteria prepared them for success. I also think the benefit to getting college credit for a four or better in an IB class goes far beyond just saving money (although that is certainly valuable). Students that I have had who have earned college credit for good scores have gotten the freedom to pursue a second degree or take an internship, sometimes travelling abroad for a year to gain global experience in their field. Those students bring that experience back to Missouri and apply those lessons to their career, which benefits all of us.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STACEY ONEAL		PHONE NUMBER:
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EMAIL: sdoneal@spsmail.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2025 11:02 AM
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This would be great for our students!!