



EXCEL Academy Public Charter School
Prince George's County Public Schools
International Baccalaureate (IB) Access and Admissions Policy

Philosophy and Access in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS)

EXCEL Academy Public Charter School, accepts any student who resides in Prince George's County. Students must apply through the Public Charter Schools Lottery and comply with administrative procedure [3506.1](#). Applications are accepted through the PGCPS website beginning November and ending in January. The school will not discriminate in admissions based on gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, disability, academic, artistic, or athletic ability.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) mission is to provide a transformative educational experience anchored by excellence in equity – developing 21st century competencies and enabling each student's unique brilliance to flourish in order to build empowered communities and a more inclusive and just world.

PGCPS offers three IB programs within the district:

1. [Primary Years Programme \(PYP\)](#) - focuses on the development of the whole child, ages 3-12 at the elementary school level under the IB programme of inquiry.
2. [Middle Years Programme \(MYP\)](#) - a curriculum framework that encourages students, ages 11-16, to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. The MYP is offered at the middle and high school levels.
3. [Diploma Programme \(DP\)](#) is a two-year course of study for students in Grades 11 and 12 recognized by universities worldwide.

In PGCPS, IB is considered one of the Specialty Programs, which is designed to provide students with additional education options within a comprehensive school environment. These programs allow for exploration and development of interests and needs, while following state and school system mandates. There are two types of specialty programs:

Open Access: Whole-school programs located in neighborhoods where every child in the boundary automatically participates in the specialty program.

Selection-Based Specialty: Students must submit an application, audition, and/or meet certain selection criteria (e.g. lottery, testing). These selection-based programs can encompass the whole-school or be a school within a school.



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Program Access

Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP):

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) are boundary based school-wide programs that provide **open access** to all students attending the school. All students attending a PYP or MYP school are provided with an inclusive educational framework that reflects the IB educational philosophy and approaches to teaching and learning.

How to access PYP and MYP at schools with more than one Specialty Program?

- ◆ If students would like to attend an IB school offering an additional specialty program, students must follow the procedures of the specialty program at the school. See the [PGCPS Specialty Programs website](#) for further details and information to access the program.

IB Programme Reciprocity:

Students transferring from an IB programme in another jurisdiction into PGCPSS schools will be provided placement into the transferring program upon review of submitted documentation. Students will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the receiving school's IB Coordinator and district office. Requests should be submitted at the time of registration accompanied by relevant documentation, (i.e., transcripts, four-year planner, and course offerings) from the programme in the former jurisdiction.