



Age/Grade Policy

ISD follows the North American grade and/or age placement scale for admission. Students coming from schools using different grade-level systems will be placed according to ISD's grade system, which is based on age of the child as of 15 September of the school calendar year.

Priority for Admissions

Priority for admission will be given to applicants in the following order:

1. Children of faculty and staff of ISD
2. Children of US citizens employed by the US Government in Senegal
3. Siblings of currently enrolled students
4. Children of diplomatic and international organizations and businesses
5. Applicants transferring from other English-speaking international schools
6. Students currently enrolled in a local school

Wait List

When a grade level is filled, a wait list is established. As vacancies occur, students are placed in classes according to the priority considerations listed above. When space limitations indicate that there are more candidates in any one category mentioned above than spaces, admissions will be based on a first come, first served basis. The date of receipt of the completed application to the admissions coordinator will be used. This includes the payment of the application fee. Please note that being on a wait list is not a guarantee of space.

Academic and Language Screening

All applicants are required to take academic placement tests. These tests assess abilities in math, reading, and written expression. Applicants are expected to score at or above grade level in all of the above areas in order to be granted regular admission. An applicant will be denied admission if he or she has specific learning or behavioral needs that cannot be adequately addressed by the school.

All prospective students with non-English language background are screened by our ELL specialist. This screen is conducted to determine the student's strengths and to detect any previous learning problems. As with all applicants, records from previous school(s) will be reviewed to ascertain patterns in academic development.

- Students applying to PK3 through Grade 1 may be admitted with no prior knowledge of English, as long as there are no significant learning or behavioral difficulties.
- Students applying to Grades 2 through 8 may be admitted with limited English language proficiency, as long as there are no significant learning or behavioral



difficulties. Language proficiency testing in reading, writing, and oral language will be required of these applicants.

- Students applying to Grades 9 through 12 must have near-native fluency in English. ISD is an IB World School, offering the Diploma Programme. As such, the primary criteria for admission of ELL students into ISD's High School will be the student's anticipated ability to succeed in 11th grade IB courses.

ISD reserves the right to deny admission to an English Language Learner whose parents refuse to have him or her served after being recommended for placement in the ELL program.

Learning Support

ISD admission is open to students who are able to participate successfully in a mainstream class with limited specialist support. Speech, language, and occupational therapy are not available at ISD, and any additional professional services required must be provided after school hours. Local resources for additional support (psychiatry, psychological therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, adaptive physical therapy, etc.) are limited in Dakar. Because of the limitations of the local support network in Dakar, ISD does not have a program for students who require support for moderate to severe mental, physical, emotional or learning disabilities.

U.S. Government employees are required to receive clearance from MED/STATE to attend ISD if their children have special needs, have received special education services in the past, or have academic delays. ISD does not offer the full continuum of special education programs mandated by law for public schools in the US. Admission to ISD is contingent upon a match between the applicant's needs and the level of services available at ISD and in Dakar.

Applicants with special needs/academic delays are required to have a recent psycho-educational assessment on file, conducted by a licensed school psychologist within the last two years. Please send any assessment you have with your application. These assessment results are critical in helping us determine the level of support needed and whether or not ISD can meet the needs of the applicant.

Due to the limited resources in Dakar, ISD reserves the right to deny admission to applicants who have demonstrable learning, behavioral and/or emotional needs that the school cannot meet. ISD also reserves the right to deny admission to any student whom the school recommends for Learning Support whose parents refuse to have him or her served by the school's pullout program.

Admissions Decisions

Regular Admission

Applicants who are granted regular admission will be notified of this decision on the day that they take the placement tests at ISD. A formal acceptance letter will be emailed to parents along with a link to ISD's Enrollment Contract. This contract must be signed



and returned to our finance office in order to receive an invoice for payment of school fees. Students who do not begin on the first day of classes generally start school the day after completing required placement tests.

Provisional Admission

When it is unclear as to whether or not we can serve an applicant's needs, ISD has the discretion to grant provisional admission. The provisional admission will be for a specific period of time, no longer than a year, which will allow for a full assessment of a student's learning background. Continuation at ISD is contingent upon the child achieving success in mainstream classes.

Reversal of Admissions Decisions

It may become apparent that the school does not have an appropriate educational program for an enrolled student. This may be due to academic ability, learning disabilities, behavioral concerns, and/or disciplinary history of the student, the seriousness of which may not have been fully apparent to the school at the time of admission. If the professional staff determines that ISD's resources are insufficient to meet an individual student's needs, the Administration of ISD reserves the right to reverse an admission decision. That student may be denied continued enrollment.