



International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Newport Harbor High School Access and Admission Policy

Effective Date: June 2026

Most Recent Review: August 2026

Next Scheduled Review: June 2027

Purpose

This policy clearly describes the conditions for participation in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) at Newport Harbor High School and establishes the school's commitment to securing access to an IB education for the broadest possible range of students. It is intended to ensure that access is equitable, transparent, inclusive, and aligned with IB philosophy and Newport-Mesa Unified School District requirements.

Philosophy

Newport Harbor High School believes that students should have opportunities to engage in challenging academic experiences that foster intellectual growth, intercultural understanding, agency, and international-mindedness. The school seeks to remove unnecessary barriers to participation, provide appropriate support, and encourage students from a broad range of backgrounds and learning profiles to consider both individual DP courses and the full IB Diploma.

Conditions for Participation

Students may participate as full IB Diploma candidates or as Diploma Programme course students. Students pursuing the full diploma must complete the required DP course pattern and the DP core—Theory of Knowledge (TOK), the Extended Essay (EE), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)—in accordance with current IB requirements. Diploma Programme course students may enroll in one or more DP subjects when prerequisites, scheduling, and course availability permit.

Participation in the DP is a student choice made with information and guidance from the IB Coordinator, IB counselor, teachers, and family. Students are expected to understand the academic demands, assessment requirements, deadlines, and academic integrity expectations associated with their selected pathway.

Access to the Diploma Programme

Newport Harbor High School maintains an open-access philosophy and seeks to provide opportunities to undertake the DP for the broadest possible range of students. The school does not exclude students solely based on prior academic performance, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, language background, disability, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity or expression. Students who need accommodations, language support, counseling, or other appropriate services may participate with supports consistent with school, district, state, federal, and IB requirements.

Link to: [NMUSD Non-Discrimination Statement](#)

Admission and Recruitment Process

NHHS uses an informational and counseling process rather than a single selective admissions test or cutoff. Students and families learn about DP opportunities through IB Information Nights, presentations by the DP Coordinator, spring counseling and classroom presentations for current sophomores, lunch-time recruitment and information events, PTA presentations, course-registration materials, school website resources, and individual meetings with the IB counselor and IB Coordinator.

During course planning, students receive guidance about the difference between pursuing the full IB Diploma and taking individual DP courses, course sequences and prerequisites, the DP core, workload and time-management expectations, assessment requirements, available student supports, and how DP choices fit the student's goals and graduation plan.

Indicators of Readiness and Advising

Coursework, academic performance, attendance, motivation, recommendations, student goals, and demonstrated work habits may be used to guide counseling conversations and identify supports that may help a student succeed. These indicators are advisory and are not used as a single gatekeeping criterion for participation. No single measure determines access to the Diploma Program.

Strategies to Encourage the Full IB Diploma

In alignment with DP-specific Programme Standards and Practices, NHHS actively encourages students to consider pursuing the full IB Diploma. Strategies include:

- explaining the benefits, expectations, and structure of the full diploma during student and family information events;
- individual academic planning with the IB counselor and IB Coordinator;
- outreach to students who may benefit from the programme but may not initially see themselves as IB Diploma candidates;
- student-to-student mentoring and opportunities for current IB students to share their experiences;
- monitoring participation patterns and identifying barriers that may discourage students from attempting the full diploma; and
- connecting students with academic, language, counseling, and inclusion supports when appropriate.

Support Materials, Resources, and Structures

NHHS supports access through counseling and academic planning, the IB Diploma Programme Coordinator, DP teachers, tutoring and academic supports, multilingual learner services, special education and Section 504 supports, school and district information resources, and family communication. These structures are intended to help students make informed programme choices and remain successfully engaged after enrollment.

[NMUSD Enrollment](#) | [NMUSD Policies and Administrative Regulations](#) | [NMUSD Required Notices](#)

Inclusion and Student Support

Students with IEPs, Section 504 Plans, multilingual learner supports, and other identified learning needs may participate in the DP with appropriate accommodations and services. The IB Coordinator collaborates with counselors, the 504 Coordinator, special education personnel, multilingual learner staff, teachers, students, and families as appropriate. Assessment access arrangements are coordinated in accordance with current IB requirements.

[IB Inclusive Education](#)

Transfer Students

Transfer students may enter individual DP courses or the full Diploma Programme when prior coursework, IB course continuity, scheduling, and remaining programme requirements make participation feasible. Placement decisions are made collaboratively by the student, family, counselor, IB Coordinator, and relevant teachers. The school seeks to preserve access while ensuring that students receive accurate information about requirements that can still be completed within the available time.

Communication of the Policy

This policy is communicated through the school website and/or IB programme resources, IB and NHHS handbooks, parent and student information events, counselor and DP Coordinator presentations, PTA meetings, recruitment activities, and individual advising. The school seeks to make programme information understandable and accessible to students and families and provides language support for family communication when needed.

Monitoring Equal Opportunity and Programme Access

NHHS monitors and evaluates its efforts to provide students with equal opportunities to undertake the full Diploma Programme. The IB Coordinator and programme leadership review enrollment and participation trends, the number and proportion of students pursuing the full diploma and individual DP courses, demographic representation, student persistence and completion, achievement data, identified barriers, use of student supports, and stakeholder feedback. Findings are used to refine recruitment, counseling, support structures, scheduling, and communication.

Policy Review Process

The policy is reviewed annually by the IB Coordinator, administrators, counselors, DP teachers, students, and parents/guardians, with additional student-support personnel included when appropriate. The review considers current IB guidance, enrollment and demographic participation trends, full-diploma participation, achievement and completion data, stakeholder feedback, and evidence of barriers to access. Revisions are documented and communicated to the school community.

Related NHHS DP Policies

- [NHHS Academic Integrity](#)
- [NHHS Assessment Policy](#)
- [NHHS Inclusion Policy](#)
- [NHHS Language Policy](#)

Related External Resources

- [IB Programme Standards and Practices 2020](#)
- [IB Inclusive Education](#)
- [NMUSD Non-Discrimination Statement](#)
- [NMUSD Enrollment](#)
- [NMUSD Policies and Administrative Regulations](#)