



**Tigard - Tualatin School District 23J**  
**Tualatin High School**  
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February 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of HB 4137, which would direct the State Board of Education to adopt rules by which a student who has completed an International Baccalaureate program may satisfy certain requirements for a high school diploma in this state.

As an IB Coordinator, every year I speak with students who just don't have room in their schedules to fit in all of the state requirements for graduation in addition to the courses needed for the rigorous, international program of study for the IB Diploma. Most of these students end up taking the state required courses online, for a fee, so that they can pursue the IB Diploma. The fact that we regularly require students to pay for an online course or two in order to access this incredible program is inequitable, as students who are unable to pay the fee are forced let go of the IB Diploma Program.

The IB Diploma can be a game changer, particularly for students who come from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds. Every year, we send IB Diploma students off to some of the best college campuses in the country. Often they start as sophomores, or with as many as 40-50 college credits already earned, as a result of their IB classes. They and their families typically save approximately \$30,000 – the cost of a full year of tuition, room and board – as a result of their IB courses and the IB Diploma.

The courses required for the IB Diploma are rigorous, college-level courses. Students who commit to this challenging path to graduation should not be derailed because they are missing a half credit of PE. Indeed, IB students who pursue the full IB Diploma are required to keep a portfolio documenting the creative, active, and service-oriented activities they participate in during their two years in the program. Therefore, in adopting HB 4137, we would not be sending students out into the world who have never learned to be active or take care of themselves physically. These students are prepared in every way for the challenges of life beyond high school, and they are often our most successful and productive alumni.

The IB Program is designed to create change-makers: students who are inspired to learn about the world, recognize its problems, do ethical research on those problems, and take responsible action to find solutions. Surely a student who can complete all the requirements for this incredible program is entitled to a diploma for their efforts.

Thank you for listening. If there is anything I can do to further support the passage of HB3147, I hope you will let me know. I'm happy to advocate for these phenomenal students.

Sincerely,

s/ Lisa C. Lacy  
IB Diploma Program Coordinator / English Teacher / Newspaper Adviser  
Tualatin High School  
Tigard-Tualatin School District