



PORTLAND
Public Schools

February 20, 2024

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

As the Director of CTE, AP, and IB at Oregon's largest school district, Portland Public Schools, I write to offer our strong support for HB 4137, a bill that allows students who complete the IB program to be considered by the state of Oregon to have met the requirements of a state of Oregon high school diploma.

The International Baccalaureate® program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. This program encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Here in PPS, we offer IB programs in 4 K-8 schools and 2 high schools. The IB program is known for having rigorous coursework, a high number of required classes, and extensive projects that cultivate students' critical and creative thinking skills. Because of the demanding nature of the program, some students struggle to complete both the requirements of the IB diploma and the Oregon high school diploma.

This bill is a simple and important policy that will offer parity to students in the IB program, and make it easier for students who meet the requirements of the IB diploma. Beyond this policy, we also hope that the state will we will sustain and build on its support and funding to make advanced learning opportunities such as the IB program available to every Oregon student. Please support HB 4137. Thank you.

Chris Brida
Director of CTE, AP, IB