

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
FIRST INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL IN PASSAIC COUNTY**

PATERSON, New Jersey, March 13, 2017 — Paterson Public Schools has received official confirmation that International High School (IHS) has been authorized as an “IB World School” for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP). This authorization makes IHS the first IB World School in Passaic County and one of only 15 high schools in the entire state of New Jersey.

The International Baccalaureate Organization notified the district on March 6, 2017 that IHS had fully met all of the rigorous benchmarks required to participate in this prestigious program. International Baccalaureate Coordinator, Ms. Catherine Forfia-Dion declared, “The IB Diploma Programme is an exciting addition to International, and exemplifies Paterson Public Schools' commitment to prepare our students to thrive in a global society.”

The DP is an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepare students, aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond.

IB schools have a track record of academic excellence. The unique and innovative approach to learning means both students and teachers are genuinely engaged and benefit from being a part of an unparalleled global network. With its intense focus on writing, the DP provides a rigorous academic model and encourages students to explore new ideas and cultures providing a high quality, well-rounded education. The program also gives students the opportunity to earn an international diploma recognized by top colleges and universities around the world.

The School currently has 37 sophomores slated to enroll in IB courses in the fall. The IB Diploma Program is for students in 11th and 12th grades. The courses begin in 11th grade and are two years in length. A total of 75 Accelerated Cohort Students and IB will grow by 40 students per year. Additionally, all non-IB students at the high school are able to take any IB class offered. These “Courses Students” receive full course credit, along with a certificate upon completion.

Paterson State District Superintendent Dr. Donnie Evans stated, “With the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme officially instituted at International High School, our students have unique opportunities to rise to the forefront as leaders in the growing global community and economy. This is truly a major step, not only toward our stated mission to prepare all students for success in the college or university of their choosing and in their chosen career, but also toward our vision of becoming *the* leader in educating New Jersey’s urban

youth. I congratulate Principal Dr. Robina Puryear-Castro, Ms. Forfia, and everyone involved for making IB a reality at International High School.”

The application for the *Accelerated Cohort* (9th and 10th grade, Pre-IB Programme) is available on the [Accelerated Programs webpage](#), beginning in January of each year. Applicants are assessed for entry based on multiple measures that range from a live interview, to standardized test scores, teacher recommendations and more. The IB coordinator also works closely with the middle school guidance counselors to ensure that all 8th graders are aware of the program.

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About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools is the third largest school district in New Jersey. The school district’s strategic plan focuses on four priorities including Effective Academic Programs.

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