

IB Application Process

Applications for the IB Program at Oscar Smith High School are available in all middle school guidance offices or from the IB coordinator by December 1st each year. Each interested eighth grader should submit an application to his/her middle school counselor by January 15. The counselor will attach transcripts, teacher recommendations, etc. and forward the packet to the IB coordinator. All applicants must participate in a writing session at Oscar F. Smith High School following the submission of the application. Writing session dates and times will be provided in the application packet.

Selection Process

To be eligible for IB, students should meet the following minimum requirements:

Grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above

Grade of A or B in each core subject

Favorable recommendations from four current teachers as follows:

English, mathematics, social studies, and science

Evidence of desire to be challenged through enrollment in honors and high-school-equivalent mathematics and foreign language courses while in middle school

Proficiency in written communication (demonstrated in the writing sample)

Scores at or above the 85th percentile on nationally standardized tests

Passing scores on all Virginia Standards of Learning tests

The IB Application Screening Committee scores each student's application using a rubric, which incorporates the previously listed requirements. A personal interview with the applicant at the student's middle school will be scheduled if there is inadequate information on which to base a decision.</p>

Up to sixty (60) applicants on the committee's ranked list will be offered admission into the CPS Chesapeake Public Schools' Pre-IB Academy. The remaining students will be placed on a waiting list and will be considered for admission in the event that a student who is offered a position in the program chooses not to accept. The application and screening process are modeled after ones used to select students in IB world schools throughout the United States. The process has proven effective in identifying students who can succeed in the rigorous Diploma Program.</p>

Admissions Policy

Every student is expected to maintain a GPA of 3.0. Counseling will be available to assist each student not fulfilling his/her potential. Any student with a GPA below a 3.0 should schedule parent/teacher conferences to assist in attaining the minimum GPA and will be encouraged to seek tutoring. At the end of ninth grade, any student with a GPA below a 2.6 will be placed on Academic Probation. Any student with a GPA between 2.6 and 2.9 will be notified that he/she has until the end of the first term of the sophomore year to meet the minimum requirement or be placed on Academic Probation.</p>

Any student who has not met the minimum GPA requirement after one term of Academic Probation will be scheduled for Academic Review. Unless there are highly valid extenuating circumstances, the Academic Review Committee will recommend transfer from the program. The minimum GPA requirement of maintaining a 3.0 will also apply to the Grade 11-12 Diploma Program.</p>

Note: To maintain the integrity of the IB Program, repeated violations of the Admissions Agreement signed by the student and his/her parents/guardians in the application process can warrant removal from the program during or at the end of the ninth grade year or any year thereafter.