



Dear International Baccalaureate Parents,

On Thursday, January 21, 2011, **Senate Bill 109** was introduced in the Maryland State Senate and was referred to the Senate Committee on Education, Health and Environmental Affairs. The bill states, *“If a public institution of higher education in the State grants course credit for Advanced Placement examinations, it shall grant course credit for standard and higher level International Baccalaureate examinations comparable to the course credit granted for Advanced Placement examinations.”*

The Mid-Atlantic Association of IB World Schools believes that passage of this bill would result in a more critical analysis of the rigor and performance of students on **both standard level and higher level IB assessments** by all of Maryland’s public colleges and universities. While some Maryland colleges and universities have progressive policies that recognize the rigor and benefits of an IB education, other universities including the various campuses of the University of Maryland system and the University of Baltimore have policies that do not give similar weight to IB SL subjects that they award to comparable AP courses. We feel that this practice sends an unintended message to parents that the IB is inferior to the Advanced Placement courses offered by the College Board. In fact, a Thomas B. Fordham Institute examination that compared IB standard level course curricula and assessments with their AP counterpart revealed that IB STANDARD LEVEL courses were either equivalent to or considered more rigorous than their AP counterparts. In addition to this, there are many studies that support the performance and retention rates of IB graduates at universities around the world.

For these reasons, we need your help. We are asking you to immediately contact your State Senator and State Delegates to let them know that you would like them to strongly support SB 109 and urge the Senate Committee on Education, Health and Environmental Affairs to move the bill for full Senate consideration. Please find your State Senator and State Delegate at: <http://mdelect.net/electedofficials/>. You can learn more about **SB 109** and how you can help by visiting the IB Mid-Atlantic website at <http://ibmidatlantic.org/> or by following the bill on Twitter @IBMArecognition.

Sincerely,

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