

# **Parent Meeting**

17 November 2016

***For me to feel comfortable  
with this proposed change  
what else do I need to know  
in order to fully support this  
going forward?***

## Parent questions and concerns ...

In what ways does this help learning?

I do not believe that the current grading system is a problem at all for the acceptance in colleges so I don't see the point of changing it to this new system.

If HS changes the A-F and GPA grading system to IB 1-7, universities might misinterpret our students' ability.

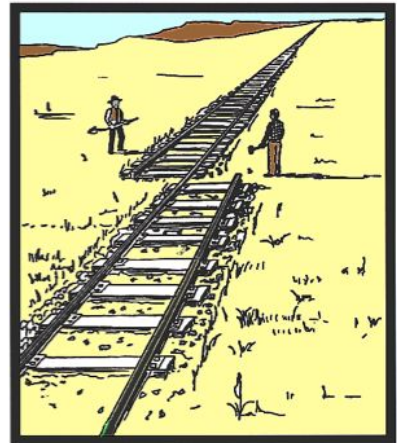
When submitting predicted IB score to US college is it a disadvantage?

Will the school be there to support parents and students if there are problems transitioning to a new school or college?

## A simple rationale

The more we can align our curriculum, pedagogy, assessments and learning culture the better able we are to support our students and the more likely they are to achieve their full potential.

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## The journey so far ....

**Rubric Driven  
Assessments**

**HAL  
Habits and  
Attitudes to  
Learning**

**MSH**

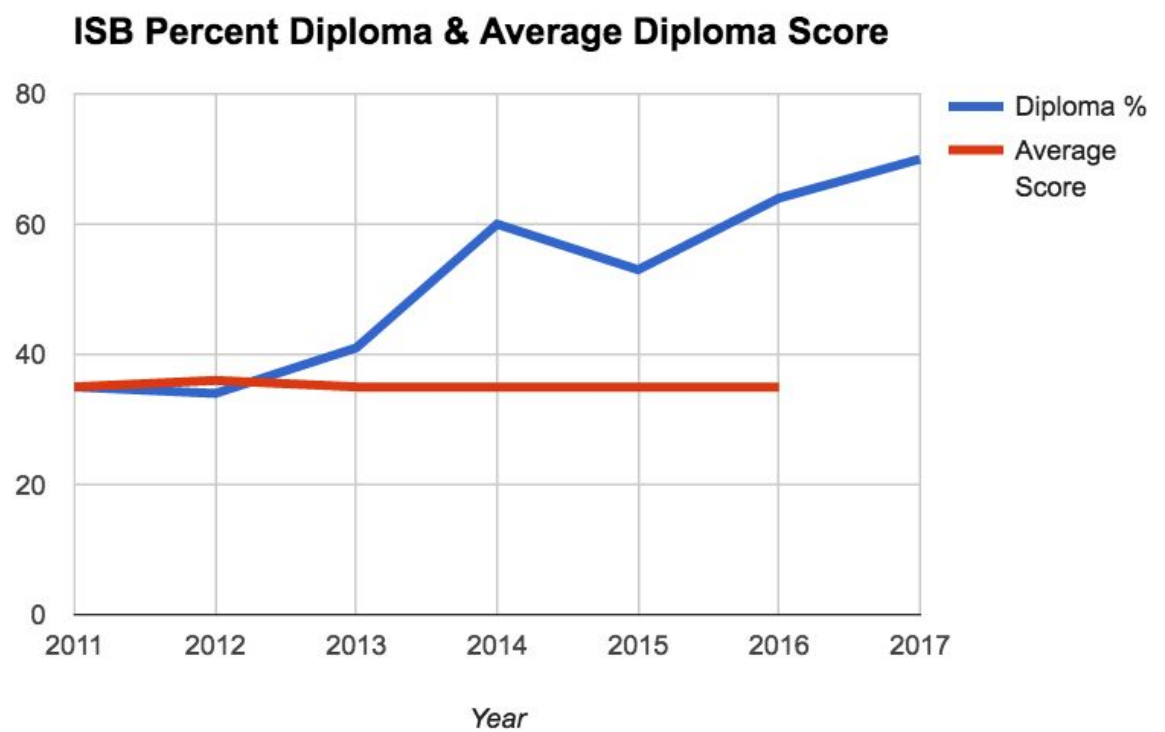
**Broad  
Learning  
Categories**

**Formative  
and  
Summative**

**Body of  
Evidence**

**UBD  
Curriculum  
Design**

## The journey so far ....



Steady growth of IB Diploma & IB courses at ISB

## **Our next steps ....**

- Transition from a 13 point (A+ - F) percentage derived letter scale to a IB 7-1 scale that uses learner outcomes and performance descriptors
- Transition from a 4.8 GPA scale to a 7.0 GPA scale
- Transition from a weighted to an unweighted GPA scale

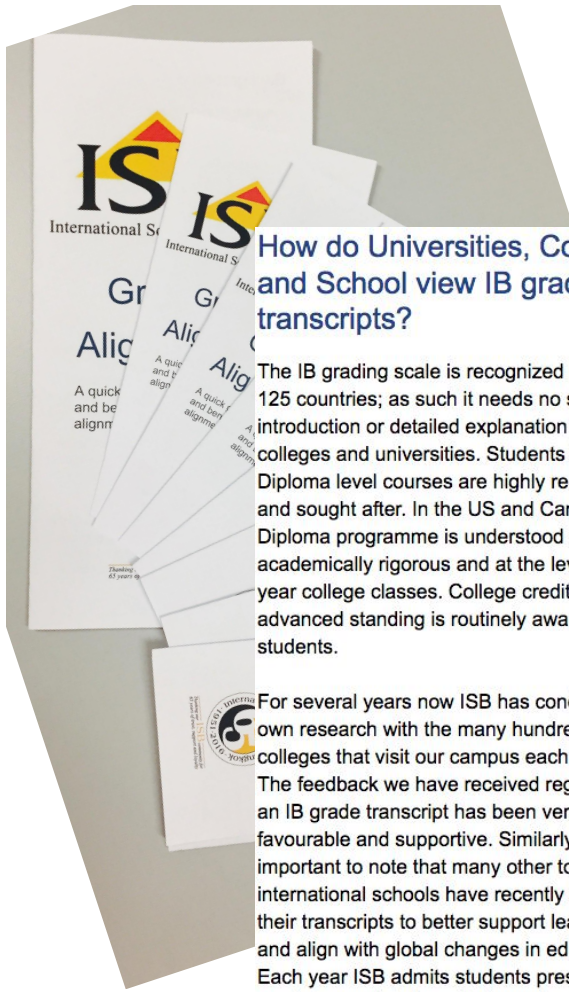
## Core assumptions and assertions

- HS has always been committed to making the incremental adjustments that ensure the best possible learning outcomes for all our students - this is another improvement
- One of our most important metrics at ISB remains placing our students in “best-fit” colleges inc. the most competitive
- This is NOT a shift to standards based report cards
- This process is thoroughly researched and it does NOT take ISB into uncharted territory
- ISB has the capacity to make this change at this time



## **Your immediate thoughts....**

- How does this better support student learning?
- What about college and university admissions?
- Show me what this would look like?
- Are there any other schools who use this system?



## How do Universities, Colleges and Schools view IB grade transcripts?

The IB grading scale is recognized in over 125 countries; as such it needs no special introduction or detailed explanation to colleges and universities. Students taking Diploma level courses are highly regarded and sought after. In the US and Canada, the Diploma programme is understood to be academically rigorous and at the level of first year college classes. College credit or advanced standing is routinely awarded to IB students.

For several years now ISB has conducted its own research with the many hundreds of colleges that visit our campus each year. The feedback we have received regarding an IB grade transcript has been very favourable and supportive. Similarly it is important to note that many other top international schools have recently changed their transcripts to better support learning and align with global changes in education. Each year ISB admits students presenting IB grade transcripts from their previous school.

## University and College recognition of IB grades

All colleges and universities are familiar with the IB grading scale and attainment levels. The following table is typically used by colleges to calculate equivalency to the US letter scale and can provide an accurate equivalency for parents accustomed to letter grades. (Many colleges use IB grades without any conversion or additional calculations.)

IB Descriptor	IB Grade	US Grade
Excellent	7	A+
Very Good	6	A
Good	5	B
Satisfactory	4	C
Mediocre	3	D
Poor	2	NC
Very Poor	1	NC

NC = No ISB credit awarded

Specific recognition policies will differ from college to college and depending upon the particular course of study. The IBO Website provides useful links on this topic. Many ISB students have received one year of college credit for good grades in subjects that relate to their chosen course of study.



International School Bangkok

## Grade Alignment

A quick guide to the purpose and benefits of the grade alignment process at ISB



Thank you for 65 years of trust, support and loyalty





**Harvard University** - “We have no preference as to grading scale and we are equally comfortable reading applications with grades on the IB scale as we are applications on the A to F scale. As my colleague puts it, we are multilingual when it comes to transcripts.” Robyn Jones

**University of California, Berkeley** - “It makes a lot of sense to use the IB grading system. We also want students to input their IB scores as they appear on the academic record. They should not convert to the US grading scale.”

**Brown** - We can work with any scale as long as you tell us what that scale is. I think a 1-7 scale is easier and makes more sense. Lots of schools use the scale. I can't speak for all universities, but the top ones are used to this!

## Japan

“The Japanese Ministry of Education's collaboration with the IB to develop a dual language Japanese-English DP structure is good for all IB schools. Our transcripts were only ever 1-7 and credits per subject, no GPA and no ranking, and we never experienced any issues.”

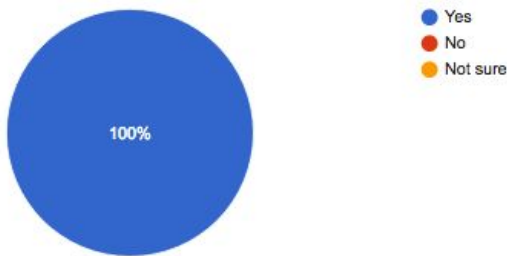
Every year we successfully admit to Japan; this year: Waseda, International Christian College, Nagoya, Ritsumeikan, Sofia, Osaka and Nagoya. We used the IB's 1 – 7 scale within our transcript, which also has an explanation of the grading system. We have never had a problem with our transcript.

## **Thailand**

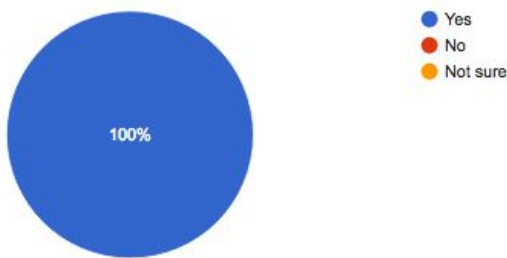
Our colleagues in BPS and NIST regularly use a 7 – 1 scale and have a lot of success in placing students within top Thai Universities.

We enjoy good relations with many top Thai Universities and over many years have placed many successful students – they want more!

Has your institution previously admitted IB students?



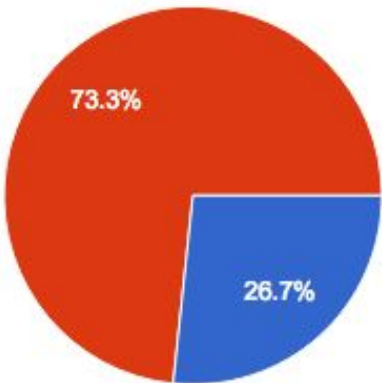
Has or would your institution admitted students who present IB 1-7 style transcripts?



To ensure this was the right decision for us we have been researching implications of this change. Over the last five years HS counselors and admin have been extensively researching the views of Universities and Colleges in the USA and Worldwide. These recent survey results (Oct 2016) are consistent with all of our findings.



Is an IB 1-7 style transcript a



- POSITIVE factor in the admissions process
- NEUTRAL factor in the admissions process
- DISADVANTAGE in the admissions process

## IB Descriptors

### **Grade 7 Excellent performance**

A consistent and thorough understanding of the required knowledge and skills, and the ability to apply them almost faultlessly in a wide variety of situations. Consistent evidence of analysis, synthesis and evaluation where appropriate. The student consistently demonstrates originality and insight and always produces work of high quality.

### **Grade 6 Very good performance**

A consistent and thorough understanding of the required knowledge and skills, and the ability to apply them in a wide variety of situations. Consistent evidence of analysis, synthesis and evaluation where appropriate. The student generally demonstrates originality and insight.

### **Grade 5 Good performance**

A consistent and thorough understanding of the required knowledge and skills, and the ability to apply them in a variety of situations. The student generally shows evidence of analysis, synthesis and evaluation where appropriate and occasionally demonstrates originality and insight.

### **Grade 4 Satisfactory performance**

A general understanding of the required knowledge and skills, and the ability to apply them effectively in normal situations. There is occasional evidence of the skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

### **Grade 3 Mediocre performance**

Limited achievement against most of the objectives, or clear difficulties in some areas. The student demonstrates a limited understanding of the required knowledge and skills and is only able to apply them fully in informal situations with support.

### **Grade 2 Poor performance**

Very limited achievement against all the objectives. The student has difficulty in understanding the required knowledge and skills, and is unable to apply them fully in normal situation, even with support.

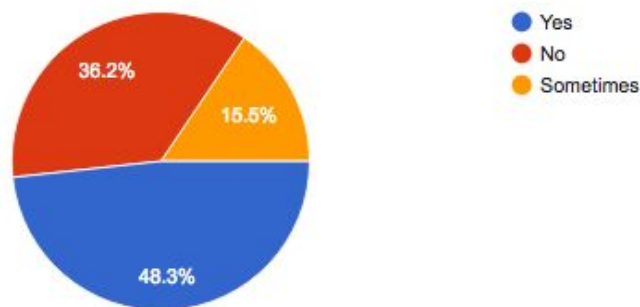
### **Grade 1 Very poor performance**

Minimal achievement in terms of the objectives

The following are a selection of schools who use an IB 1-7 grading scale for reporting and transcripts.

- International School Manila
- Bangkok Patana
- NIST
- American International School of Lima
- UWC schools
- International School of Brussels
- International School of Geneva
- Western Academy Beijing
- International School of Amsterdam
- American International School of Johannesburg
- International School of Kenya
- Atlanta International School

At your institution do you recalculate GPA to fit your own scale? |



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Parent Question: If you use an IB score to apply US college, will they revert to GPA grading?

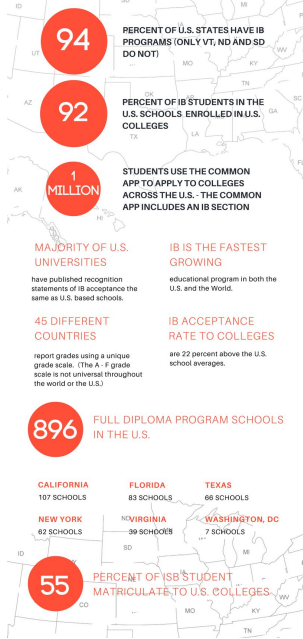
Yes = typically all transcripts (IB or letter) are converted w/o issue to a 4.0 scale or equivalent

No = IB transcripts are well understood and taken at face value

End of Presentation...

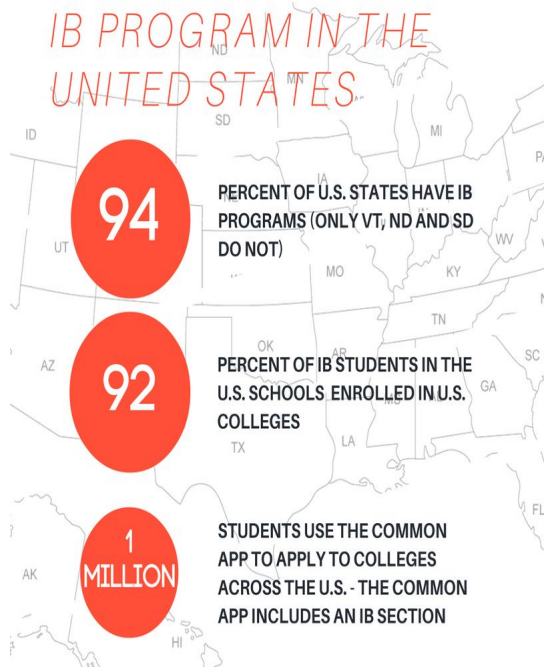
STATISTICS ON THE IB IN AMERICA

IB PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES



STATISTICS ON THE IB IN AMERICA

IB PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES



**MAJORITY OF U.S. UNIVERSITIES**

have published recognition statements of IB acceptance the same as U.S. based schools.

**IB IS THE FASTEST GROWING**

educational program in both the U.S. and the World.

**45 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES**

report grades using a unique grade scale. (The A - F grade scale is not universal throughout the world or the U.S.)

**IB ACCEPTANCE RATE TO COLLEGES**

are 22 percent above the U.S. school averages.

**896** FULL DIPLOMA PROGRAM SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.

**CALIFORNIA**  
107 SCHOOLS

**FLORIDA**  
83 SCHOOLS

**TEXAS**  
66 SCHOOLS

**NEW YORK**  
62 SCHOOLS

**VIRGINIA**  
39 SCHOOLS

**WASHINGTON, DC**  
7 SCHOOLS

**55** PERCENT OF IB STUDENT MATRICULATE TO U.S. COLLEGES



## **How will these changes benefit our students?**

The consistency of communication that switching to the IB scale will bring to our learners is significant and provides students with the most meaningful feedback.

Grading in the IB Diploma programme no longer needs to be converted or “curved”, thus ensuring that students get direct appropriate feedback in the “language” of the programme and focused on learning without the “cost” of conversion.

Teacher comments, grades and student improvement goals relate directly to published IB learning criteria that have direct subject specific meaning.

## **How will these changes benefit our students?**

Use of the IB scale improves grading consistency within and across subjects in all grade levels.

IB grades offer universities and colleges an internationally understood and “inflation free” scale which greatly assists in the process of assessing a student's suitability for a particular school or course.

In the transient international teacher community more and more teachers are used to and familiar with the IB scale which greatly facilitates transitioning to a new school and benefits the students.



**NYU** - We read each school based on their scale, and do not have a preference for one system or another.

**Middlebury** - We understand and actually prefer the IB scale. It would be nice to have a GPA out of 7 on the transcript.

**Stanford University** - "Selective institutions like Stanford recognise that IB students are strongly prepared and ready to take on the challenges of the curriculum we offer ..... When we see an IB student application we are excited ... they enjoy a higher success rate in the first years of college."

I think many Admission Officers would agree that a different grading scale outside of the traditional A, B, C scale does not mean that a curriculum is perceived odd, different, or less demanding. In the case of IB, the curriculum is based off of the 1-7 scale. On my end, when I see an IB school that does not use the 1-7, I'm a bit confused. I would wonder how the internal grading system would really work, and how predicted grades were then calculated. The last part is especially important, since it might seem inconsistent to see Cs and then 7s for example. It's like seeing a Chinese national curriculum with letters - it looks like a departure from the consistency that the system is supposed to create. Overall, I always recommend that IB schools use the IB system. We recalculate GPAs anyway, so a school should not be anxious that we would miss the 4.0 GPA format.

Vassar College

**Virginia Tech**, Dr. Eugene Carson: “. . . IB students who attended that university (Virginia Tech) as freshmen significantly outperformed all other freshmen, including students who had taken Advanced Placement courses.”

Comments from **University of Chicago, Rice and Cornell** – “As long as the explanation is on the profile all is good”. They state that they are receiving more and more 1 - 7 scale transcripts and many are from U.S. high schools.

## **Korea**

**Seoul National University** “We don’t prefer one academic program over another. If IBD, we look at which subjects are at HL and predicted grades. We aren’t looking at total points. We read recommendations very closely.

**KOREA ADVANCED INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (KAIST)** We want strong, steady grades and no fluctuation. An upward slope is fine but if it’s between two students, we will take the student who is more consistent.

## **How might these changes be implemented?**

Consultation and communication with stakeholders in our community. (We would want to translate certain key documentation into the languages of our largest linguistic groups.)

Consider the merits of different “roll out” options

- Start in grade 9
- All at once
- Grade 9 - 11 and “grandfather” the seniors

Ensure we are able to provide sufficient, in-depth training for all involved staff members?

**Thank you.....**



**.... Questions**