

PROTECT IB AT MISSION BAY HIGH SCHOOL AND PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT ACTION BRIEF

Your Voice Matters

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme at Pacific Beach Middle School and Mission Bay High School is the most inclusive and impactful advanced academic pathway in San Diego Unified. It strengthens college readiness, supports College, Career, and Technical Education (CCTE) pathway completion, raises the College/Career Indicator (CCI), and keeps families enrolled in our community schools. The district is exploring funding reductions that would weaken or eliminate IB.

Parents and community partners speaking together can put a stop to this.

What have we gained from the IB program?

- We have thriving neighborhood schools!
- PBMS lays the strong foundation so students are prepared and motivated to enter the IB Programme at the high school level. The Middle Years Programme received international recognition in 2025 and is being used as a model program to promote IB throughout the country.
- The IB Programme is an inclusive program and continues to grow:
 - There are 300 11th- and 12th-grade students on track to graduate with an IB Diploma or Certificate in 2026 and 2027.
 - 70% of MBHS students are taking IB courses.
 - In 2025, MBHS IB students earned the equivalent of 461 college credits.
- Enrollment continues to grow: Mission Bay Cluster is one of two clusters with increasing enrollment, while the rest of the district is declining. Families are returning from private and charter schools. Families are “choicing” into our cluster from outside San Diego Unified.
- Having an IB Programme benefits all students by training and retaining high-quality educators who provide rigorous coursework for all grade levels and classes, including non-IB grades and classes.

What's at risk?

- Families will leave the district for private and charter schools, resulting in reduced district income and decreased programming at our schools.

- Lower College/Career Indicator (CCI) performance, which reflects college and career readiness and fewer four-year college acceptances.
- Collapse of the Spanish and potential removal of the Mandarin language pathways and reduction in candidates for the Seal of Biliteracy.
- Fewer IB classes will be offered to students, resulting in a decrease in IB candidates and fewer opportunities for all students to participate in the IB Programme.
- Loss of the IB Coordinator, IB Clerk, and essential teacher training.
- Loss of Mission Bay High's and PB Middle's unique identities and opportunities for students.

Language Programs Potentially Impacted

The language programs within the Mission Bay Cluster are not just classes — they are long-term commitments that families make because they want their children to have real global opportunities. Here's what's at risk:

The Mandarin Program Is Especially Vulnerable

- Mission Bay is the only high school that completes the **K–12 Chinese Cluster Pathway** that begins at Barnard Elementary School.
- Families enroll their children in this pathway with the expectation that they can continue through rigorous IB-level Mandarin in middle school and high school.
- **IB cuts would break that pathway** — removing advanced levels, reducing teacher capacity, and ultimately dismantling the program entirely.
- Students who have invested 7–9 years learning Mandarin would abruptly lose the chance to finish what they started.

The Spanish Program will be impacted

- Fewer Spanish levels will be offered, especially advanced/IB sections.
- Reduced access to the **Seal of Biliteracy**, IB Diploma opportunities, and CCI pathway completion.
- Larger class sizes and fewer opportunities for meaningful language practice and cultural immersion.

What IB Does for Students

- Provides rigorous college-level coursework FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS, ALL CLASSES.
- Helps students complete CCTE pathways.
- Boosts CCI 'Prepared' status for state accountability.

- Builds advanced writing, research, language, and critical-thinking skills ACROSS THE SCHOOL SITES, which better prepare students for college and career.
- Increases college admissions and scholarship opportunities FOR ALL STUDENTS.
- Benefits multilingual learners, student-athletes, first-generation students, and neighborhood families.
- PBMS is a Purple Star School, which offers a relatable world program to military families.
- Beyond academics, PBMS and MBHS develop good humans who care about our world and want to make their communities a better place.

****** Immediate Actions Families Can Take**

1. Email all SDUSD board members with a unified message: Protect IB at Mission Bay High and PB Middle. Students are encouraged to voice their support for this campaign as well.
2. Attend the upcoming Board of Education meeting (December 10, 5:00 PM) – wear your school spirit gear. If you want to speak at this meeting, contact Lily Higman (lilyhigman@gmail.com) by Monday, December 8, at 12:00 PM.
3. Share this brief with friends, neighbors, parent groups, and community partners.
4. Stay connected with PBMS/MBHS parent groups and leadership for coordinated actions.

Parent Talking Points

- “IB is why we chose PBMS and/or MBHS—and why we stay in SDUSD.”
- “IB serves all kids, not just a select few.”
- “Cutting IB directly harms state accountability metrics, like the CCI.”
- “IB prepares students for college better than any other program.”
- “The PBMS and MBHS IB programmes are cost-effective and high-impact.”
- “The IB Mandarin and Spanish language programs are critical to our students’ education.”

Sample Email to Board Members and Key District Personnel

Subject: Protect IB Funding at Mission Bay High School and Pacific Beach Middle School

Dear SDUSD Board Members and Administration,

I am writing as a parent in support of the IB Programmes at Mission Bay High School and Pacific Beach Middle School. Our students rely on IB for advanced learning, college readiness, CCTE pathway completion, and strong preparation for life beyond high school. We chose to

enroll our student in the Mission Bay Cluster to take advantage of its prolific IB Programmes. We have seen that the academic environment at the secondary schools has grown from the foundation IB provides—rigor, reflection, and a shared commitment to high expectations. Reducing IB funding would harm students, weaken our school’s performance, and, in short, drive families away from the district.

[ADD YOUR OWN ANECDOTES OR PERSONAL STORIES HERE]

Please protect and fully fund the IB Program at Mission Bay High School and Pacific Beach Middle School. Our students need and deserve this opportunity.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]

Pertinent Email Contacts (send emails to all)

SDUSD Board of Education

- **District A – Sabrina Bazzo**
- **District B – Shana Hazan** (Board President)
- **District C – Cody Petterson**
- **District D – Richard Barrera**
- **District E – Sharon Whitehurst-Payne**

All board member emails: sbazzo@sandi.net, shazan@sandi.net, cpetterson@sandi.net, rbarrera1@sandi.net, swhitehurst-payne@sandi.net

SDUSD Administration

- **Superintendent:** Dr. Fabiola Bagula
- **Deputy Superintendent:** Nicole Dewitt
- **Senior Executive Director, Instructional Support:** Dr. Erin Richison
- **Area Superintendent:** Mitzi Merino
- **Deputy Superintendent, Operations:** Drew Rowlands
- **Senior Director of Finance:** Ami Shackelford
- **Director of Budget:** Cristen Owens

All administrator emails: fbagula@sandi.net, ndewitt@sandi.net, erichison@sandi.net, mmerino@sandi.net, Drowlands@sandi.net, ashackelford@sandi.net, cowens@sandi.net