



Southside High School

An International Baccalaureate High School

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Celebrating Diversity. United in Learning.

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February 10, 2016

Dear IB Diploma Students and Parent(s) of IB Diploma Students:

For school year 2016-17, our District must comply with the changes the South Carolina Department of Education made to IB Standard Level (SL) course names and weightings offered under the following conditions: 1) schools that offer an IB SL course over a two-year period of time or 2) schools on a block schedule that offer a SL course over one year.

IB credit, which is the highest academic weighting found under the state's Uniform Grading Scale, can only be awarded to one of the two courses. A support course for IB receives Honors weighting. An IB Standard Level course receives IB weighting.

Presently at Southside High School, the only SL courses for which this applies are Spanish SL 1 and French SL 1. To address the IB changes by the State Department of Education, our District has implemented the following plan of action:

- For 11th graders in school year 2016-2017 who are taking an SL course of study that involves two different courses over two years or two SL courses in the same year on the block schedule, the first year of the course will be named AP Spanish Language and will carry AP weighting. The second year of the course will be named *IB Spanish SL 2* and will carry IB weighting.
- For 12th graders in school year 2016-2017 who took the first level of an IB SL course last year and received IB-weighted quality points, their second- year course as seniors will be IB Spanish Seminar SL and will carry Honors weighting.

This action will ensure that the Department of Education requirements for awarding IB credit for courses offered over a two-year period of time are met and receive appropriate weights. Southside High School offers both Standard Level and High Level courses. The reason that schools offer IB Standard Level courses over two years is to build in additional supports (time, exposure, practice) with course content and skills that will be further developed that prepare IB students for success in the program.

I have included a copy of the Southside High School's IB Matriculation Chart with this letter so that you are aware of our course pathway for students in the IB Diploma Program. If you have questions, you may contact the school's IB Coordinator, Dr. Lavetta Collins, at 864-355-8714.

Respectfully,

Carlos Brooks

Principal

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date