

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 581](#)

TITLE: International Baccalaureate Bonus Funding

SPONSOR(S): Tuck

COMPANION BILL: [CS/SB 754](#) (Burton)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Education Administration](#)

17 Y, 0 N



[PreK-12 Budget](#)



[Education & Employment](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill authorizes a school district to earn an additional 0.16 weight applied to the district's student full-time equivalent (FTE) for each student enrolled in an International Baccalaureate (IB) course who earns a score of "C" or higher on a subject examination. The bill also provides a \$50 bonus to an IB teacher for each student who earns a "C" or higher, and an additional \$500 bonus if the teacher is in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F" and has at least one student who earns a "C" or higher. The theory of knowledge subject examination would be eligible for the additional FTE and classroom teacher bonuses.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill has an estimated fiscal impact of \$3,882,502 generated by the additional FTE within the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) for the additional weight.

[JUMP TO](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

[BILL HISTORY](#)

ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill authorizes a school district to earn 0.16 additional full-time equivalent (FTE) for each student enrolled in an IB course who earns a score of "C" or higher on an [International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) subject examination. (Section [1](#)).

The bill provides a bonus in the amount of \$50 to a teacher for each student who earns a "C" or higher on the IB examination; and an additional \$500 bonus if the teacher is in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F" and has at least one student who earns a "C" or higher. (Section [1](#)).

The theory of knowledge subject examination, part of the required core of the IB program, would be eligible for the additional FTE and classroom teacher bonus, subject to a level of student achievement of "C" or higher. (Section [1](#)).

The effective date for the bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#)).

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

Increasing the eligibility for students to receive an additional 0.16 FTE weight for earning a "C" or higher on an IB course subject examination will have an estimated fiscal impact of \$3,882,502 generated by the additional FTE within the [Florida Education Finance Program \(FEFP\)](#).

STORAGE NAME: h0581a.EAS

DATE: 3/28/2025

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[International Baccalaureate Diploma Program](#)

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB) is a high school program that doubles as a college preparation curriculum. The IB curriculum is made up of three core elements and six subject groups. The six main areas of study include: language and literature, language acquisition, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics, and the arts. The IB program requires students to choose courses from the six subject groups. Students may opt to study an additional sciences, individuals and societies, or languages course instead of a course in the arts.¹

For most courses in the program, written examinations at the end of the program form the basis of the assessment. Students receive grades ranging from 7 to 1, with 7 being the highest for each course attempted.²

In addition to the six subject groups, the IB program requires study in three core elements, which include:³

- theory of knowledge, a course in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know;
- extended essay, which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper; and
- creativity, activity, and service, in which students complete a project related to the three concepts.

The theory of knowledge and extended essay components are awarded individual grades from A to E and, collectively, can contribute up to three additional points towards the overall diploma score. Creativity, activity, and service does not contribute to the points total but participation is a requirement for the award of the diploma.⁴ Unlike the written examinations used to assess the six subject group areas, the theory of knowledge course is assessed through a student exhibition and a 1,600-word essay.⁵

A student's final diploma result score is made up of the combined scores for each subject. The diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance including successful completion of the three core elements.⁶

[Florida Education Finance Program](#)

The Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) is the primary mechanism for funding the operating costs of Florida school districts.⁷ The FEFP allocates funds to each school district based on student enrollment.⁸ The FEFP uses a unit of measure for each student called a full-time equivalent (FTE).⁹ One FTE equals one school year of

¹ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, *Curriculum*, [DP curriculum - International Baccalaureate®](#) (last visited Mar. 6, 2025).

² International Baccalaureate, *Understanding DP Assessment*, [Diploma programme assessment - International Baccalaureate®](#) (last visited Mar. 6, 2025). See also International Baccalaureate, Course selection guidance, [Course selection guidance - International Baccalaureate®](#) (last visited Mar. 6, 2025).

³ International Baccalaureate, *Curriculum*, [DP curriculum - International Baccalaureate®](#) (last visited Mar. 6, 2025).

⁴ International Baccalaureate, *Assessment Principles and Practices- Quality Assessment in a Digital Age* (2018), at 219-220, available at [assessment-principles-and-practices-2018-en.pdf](#). See also International Baccalaureate, *DP Passing Criteria*, [DP passing criteria - International Baccalaureate®](#) (last visited Mar. 6, 2025).

⁵ International Baccalaureate, *What is TOK?*, [What is the Theory of Knowledge - International Baccalaureate®](#) (last visited Mar. 6, 2025). The theory of knowledge essay is an external assessment component and is marked by IB examiners. The exhibition is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course. International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Subject Brief, *Core: Theory of knowledge* (2022), at 3, available at [core-tok-2022-en.pdf](#).

⁶ International Baccalaureate, *Understanding DP Assessment*, [Diploma programme assessment - International Baccalaureate®](#) (last visited Mar. 6, 2025).

⁷ Florida Department of Education, *2024-25 Funding for Florida School Districts*, at 1, available at [2024-25 Funding Book](#).

⁸ See [s. 1011.62\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁹ Section [1011.61\(1\), F.S.](#)

instruction, or its equivalent provided to a student.¹⁰ Within the FEFP, additional weights are applied to a school district's FTE for bonus FTE programs.¹¹ The IB program is considered a bonus FTE program.

School districts may earn additional FTE for students who earn the following:¹²

Program	Additional FTE Value	Qualifying Student Attainment
International Baccalaureate (IB)	0.16 FTE	Score of four or higher on the subject examination.
IB Diploma	0.3 FTE	Receives an IB Diploma.

From the funding generated by the additional FTE for each program, districts must allocate 80 percent of the funds received to the school program whose students generate the funds and to school programs that prepare prospective students to enroll in IB courses. Funds must be expended solely for the payment of allowable costs associated with the IB program.¹³

From the additional FTE, districts are required to distribute bonuses¹⁴ to classroom teachers as follows:¹⁵

- \$50 for each student taught by the teacher in each IB course who receives a score of four or higher on the IB subject examination.
- \$500 for an IB teacher in a school designated with a grade of "D" or "F" who has at least one student scoring four or higher on the IB subject examination.

School districts must allocate the remaining 20 percent of the funds received from the additional FTE funding for programs that assist academically disadvantaged students to prepare for more rigorous courses.¹⁶

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2024	CS/CS/HB 1285	Canady	Burgess	Became law on July 1, 2024

OTHER RESOURCES:

Education & Employment Committee, [Articulated Acceleration Mechanisms Fact Sheet](#)

¹⁰ Section [1011.61\(1\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

¹¹ Florida Department of Education, *2024-25 Funding for Florida School Districts*, at 15-16, available at [2024-25 Funding Book](#).

¹² Section [1011.62\(1\)\(f\), F.S.](#)

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*; see also Florida Department of Education, *2024-25 Funding for Florida School Districts*, at 16, available at [2024-25 Funding Book](#). Bonuses awarded are in addition to any regular wages or other bonuses the teacher received or is scheduled to receive. *Id.*

¹⁵ Section [1011.62\(1\)\(f\)1.-2., F.S.](#)

¹⁶ Section [1011.62\(1\)\(f\), F.S.](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Education Administration Subcommittee	17 Y, 0 N	3/27/2025	Sleap	Blalock
PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee				
Education & Employment Committee				