



IB Admission Policy

1. Purpose of the Admission Policy:

- To ensure that all students at Old Scona Academic School have equal access to an IB education
- To ensure that the school community is aware of the process for admission into IB courses

2. Philosophy:

Our goal is to ensure that students experience success in their high school courses leading to the Alberta Diploma. Students should have the opportunity to enrich their education by completing IB courses and / or the IB Diploma. Students should also have the opportunity to achieve the credentials needed for acceptance into, and success in, post-secondary institutions. To this end, we believe that IB courses should be freely available to all students who have successfully completed the prerequisite courses.

We believe that all students should have access to instruction with an international focus and that all students should further develop the IB Learner Profile attributes throughout their high school years.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

A) Head of School will

- ensure that the community is aware of deadlines for school choice and course selection
- provide opportunities for parents and students to attend information sessions regarding the IB programme
- provide opportunities for students to learn about the admission requirements of many Universities
- provide support services to help students succeed in their IB courses.

B) IB Diploma Coordinator and School Counselors

- provide information and guidance to students and their parents during program and course selection via group IB Information sessions and one-on-one conversations
- provide guidance and recommendations to help students select a programme that best suits their needs
- encourage students to attempt IB courses and / or the IB Diploma
- support students throughout their high school years to help them succeed in their IB courses
- provide opportunities for students to learn about the admission requirements of many Universities by organizing University fairs and/or visits

C) Students and Parents

- attain knowledge about the requirements for an Alberta Diploma, an IB Diploma, and post-secondary school programs of choice before high school program and course selection
- contact IB Coordinator with questions and concerns
- access student support systems when needed
 - student services provide counseling for students during course selection
 - student services provide support to students having difficulty in their courses, including organization of peer tutoring
 - student services provides accommodations for students with special needs

4. Policy Overview

Old Scona Academic is an entrance criteria school. Each year we have at least four times the number of students applying as we are able to accommodate. After ranking and selecting prospective students, the application process will be closed. The entrance process will be completed in time for students to apply to other EPSB schools, if needed.

The Application Process

The Application Process Entry to Old Scona Academic (OSA) is by application only. All applicants must:

- 1) Attain a combined average of 90% or higher in Grade 9 Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science based on the most recent cumulative progress report or cumulative interim report.
- 2) Write a standardized entrance exam (Not required for 2022-2023 due to COVID)
- 3) Complete the student portion of the application and submit it to your school principal to complete the school recommendation.

Applicants **MUST** meet all three requirements of the application process in order to be considered for admission. Failure to do so by the required deadline will result in a student's application being considered incomplete and it will not be assessed for admission.

The Ranking and Selection Procedure

The ranking of applicants will be determined by the following information:

- The applicant's most recent Grade 9 progress report or interim report using the four subjects of Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science. The combined average must be 80% or higher (weighting 45% of total ranking). This weighting is further made up of a sub-weighting of L.A. (25%), Math (25%), Social Studies (25%) and Science (25%).
- The score achieved on the standardized entrance exam (weighting 45% of total ranking).
- A confidential character assessment completed by your principal or principal-designated staff member (weighting 10% of total ranking).

Students entering Old Scona Academic are admitted on a merit basis, starting from the highest aggregate score and working down until the capacity of approximately 125 students is attained.

In accordance with the Education Act, students who are residents of Edmonton Public Schools will be given priority admission over non-resident students. Non-Edmonton Public School students must fill out the Division Registration Form.

Admission into the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (Year 1)

The school hosts an IB information evening for grade 10 students and parents in February. This is the time students and their families make a decision if they will be taking courses in the IB program in grade 11.

As stated in the IB guide “From Principles into Practice”, parents and students should recognize that motivation, self-discipline and perseverance play a key role in determining student success in the Diploma Programme. These can be difficult to measure. The Diploma Programme is designed for motivated students who may want to attend university. Most colleges and universities offer recruitment incentives to IB students but they differ from institution to institution. Parents along with students are encouraged to check the website of any post-secondary institutions they are considering to determine their specific requirements. Ultimately, the decision is up to the student and the parent in consultation with the school to determine which IB courses are appropriate course selections for them.

The IB Diploma Programme is a two year programme which normally begins in grade 11. At Old Scona no fee is charged for registration into the program nor is a fee charged to register for the examinations. Once a student is registered to write an examination and then chooses to withdraw, the school may ask the parent to pay any fees assessed by the IBO.

Students may register for standard level courses in their grade 10 year if the prerequisites have been met. Anticipated candidates can only complete two courses at the standard level. Higher level courses must begin in grade 11. If a student wishes to complete an IB course that is not offered at Old Scona Academic, they can register for the course with Pamoja. Tuition for the course and materials is the responsibility of the family.

Admission into Full International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (Year 2)

A student and parent information session is organized in February. This session provides all of the details of being a full IB student. The IB coordinator will share information and expectations for internal assessments, TOK, CAS, EE and timelines. Emphasis is placed on time management, organization and good communication between students, teaching staff and parents to support the completion of the full diploma.

The admission policy is available to the Old Scona and the IB communities and it shall be reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to address teachers’ and students’ needs. It will be posted on SchoolZone and updated as needed.

Prerequisites for IB courses

Prerequisite for grade 11 IB course(s) is 50% in the prerequisite grade 10 subject, although we recommend a grade above 75% (see the Old Scona Academic program guide for prerequisite requirements)

Prerequisite for grade 12 IB course(s) is 50% in the same grade 11 IB subject, although we recommend a grade above 75% (see the Old Scona Academic program guide for prerequisite requirements). Students must also have completed and submitted all IB specific assessments assigned in grade 11.

5. Policy Review:

This policy was initially developed by a committee of IB teachers at Old Scona Academic school. The policy is reviewed yearly by the IB Coordinator and Administration and was last reviewed in August 2022. Amendments are made as needed.

Resources:

Edmonton Public Schools (2021). *Student Rights and Responsibilities: Old Scona Academic*

International Baccalaureate Organisation (2021). *IB Programme Standards and Practices*.

International Baccalaureate Organisation (2015). *DP From Principles to Practice*.