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Academy at Elgin High School Accredited as International Baccalaureate School

*All five U-46 academies now have national or
international certification*

ELGIN - The specialized academy at Elgin High School has received accreditation as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program. IB is a high-quality, challenging academic program that aims to develop students who are active, compassionate, and lifelong learners with an awareness and appreciation of global communities.

The IB Diploma Program was created in 1968 with the aim of providing students with a curriculum and qualification recognized by universities around the world. There are now more than 5,000 IB programs worldwide, although U-46 will be one of only a few in the Chicagoland area.

"This is an outstanding and unique opportunity for our students," said Dr. Teresa A. Lance, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Innovation. "Research shows that IB programs help students develop critical thinking skills and prepare them for success in our rapidly changing world. Our teachers will benefit as well due to the intense, high-quality professional learning they will receive. I am incredibly grateful to our teachers, school administrators, and central office staff members for the determination and hard work they demonstrated to ensure Elgin High School was officially recognized and received accreditation as an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program."

With this IB accreditation, all five of School District U-46's specialized academies now have national or international certification. The District's four

other specialized academies were recognized as nationally certified magnet schools by the Magnet Schools of America in 2021 and 2022.

IB coursework will be available at EHS starting in August 2023.

Juniors and seniors within the academy will take a minimum of one IB course per year, but they will be encouraged to complete the entire Diploma Program.

“When you graduate with an International Baccalaureate diploma, it is known across the world. It is a world-renowned, recognized diploma. It is an outstanding benefit for our students,” said EHS Principal Jamie Crosen.

Because the IB program is for juniors and seniors, freshmen and sophomores in the EHS academy, known as the Gifted and Talented Academy, will continue with the coursework currently offered.

Elgin High School students who are not in the academy will also have access to IB coursework and the additional programming IB offers.

U-46 launched themed-based smaller learning communities, labeled academies, inside each of its five comprehensive high schools more than 20 years ago. In recent years it has redesigned programming at the academies to ensure they remain unique and focused. In addition to the EHS IB program, the four other academies, all with Magnet status from the Magnet Schools of America, are:

- Streamwood High School’s LEAD Academy, with LEAD standing for Leadership Entrepreneurship Action and Design. The academy students learn to be problem solvers and innovators in a collaborative environment.
- Larkin High School’s Visual and Performing Arts Academy. This academy features a four-year performance-based program in the focus areas of dance, drama, visual arts, and vocal and instrumental music.



- Bartlett High School's Science, Engineering, and High Technology Academy. At this academy, students are immersed in the principles of engineering and design. Concepts from science and math are applied to solving real-world problems with technology.
- South Elgin High School's Beacon Academy of Media & Digital Arts. This academy prepares students to become skillful and successful media makers in the areas of audio and video production, broadcast journalism, webcasting, and web design.

Students in U-46 apply to attend one of the five high school academies in the fall of their 8th grade year. More information is available at www.u-46.org/magnetacademies.

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School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 35,000 preschoolers through 12th graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).