



## PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

**Referred by:** Australian Labor Party      **Proposal No:** C938  
**Date Referred:** 12/02/2022      **Date Published:** 21/03/2023  
**Proposal Title:** Lifting ban on International Baccalaureate program in public schools  
**Cluster:** Education

### General Government Sector Impacts

	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	4-year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. depreciation)	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Less: Offsets	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Operating Balance:</b>	-	-	-	-	-

Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Offsets	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Capital Expenditure:</b>	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Net Lending/(Borrowing):</b>	-	-	-	-	-
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### Total State Sector Impacts

<b>Net Lending/(Borrowing):</b>	-	-	-	-	-
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### Notes and costing assumptions:

This policy proposes to lift the ban placed on NSW public high schools being able to run the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, upon formation of Government.

The policy further states that:

- public schools would be able to lodge expressions of interest to run the program in their schools
- the change would be managed from within the Department of Education's (DoE) existing budget allocation

The PBO considers it feasible that DoE can absorb the costs of this policy, given some redirection of existing teaching and administrative resources should be possible from existing HSC resourcing. However, the PBO notes that DoE may need to further reprioritise other programs and funding, which could be difficult in practice, and may affect the delivery of some services.

#### International Baccalaureate Program

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is a pre-university program of education taken in years 11 and 12. It provides university entrance qualification in Australia and in countries worldwide. The program aims

## Notes and costing assumptions continued:

to build key skills and extensive knowledge to provide a balanced education in preparation for university and life after school. Students undertaking the IB program do so as an alternative to the HSC.

### Key assumptions

- DoE advises that to implement this policy it would conduct a pilot starting with a small number of schools offering the IB within the forward estimates before evaluation and full rollout.
- The policy would involve direct IB program costs, participating school costs, and departmental costs. Direct program costs include annual IB registration fees of around \$16,800 per school, candidate registration fees of approximately \$1,000 per student, as well as examination fees. The PBO notes further school and departmental operating and implementation costs are difficult to estimate.
- DoE proposes some schools would be offered the opportunity to lodge expressions of interest to run the IB alongside their HSC program, subject to meeting selection criteria. Total costs will depend on how many schools express an interest in running the IB program and how many students enrol. Enrolments are expected to be relatively low per school.
- No capital expenditure is foreseen. The PBO assumes the use of existing classrooms and other facilities.
- DoE notes that by entering an IB arrangement, the NSW education system would be generating a minimum five-year commitment for registration processes and for each student in the cohort to successfully pass through the IB Diploma Program. Any subsequent effort to wind this back would also take time to effect that change.