

March 5 – 7, 2008

ITEM 138-105-R0308

Revision to Policy 301.16, Writing Proficiency, to Include International Baccalaureate Criterion

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education approves additional language in Policy 301.16, Writing Proficiency, to establish International Baccalaureate criterion as one of the recognized ways to demonstrate writing proficiency under the Policy.

EXPLANATION:

International Baccalaureate programs in Montana's high schools are a new . . .and rare . . .phenomenon. Flathead High School is the only institution in Montana that currently has such a program. But it is a remarkable endeavor, and students who complete the coursework typically receive college credit for their efforts. In fact, Montana State University-Bozeman grants sophomore standing to high school students who complete the entire curriculum.

The revision to this policy simply establishes another way to demonstrate writing proficiency, this time focusing on the International Baccalaureate program and its standards.

While the International Baccalaureate program is unusual in Montana, and doesn't impact a large number of students, it is much more common in other states. At least one other high school in Montana is also considering implementation of the program at this time.