

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **DATE:**

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## **ICS becomes RI's first publicly-funded International Baccalaureate® School**

The International Charter School in Pawtucket, R.I., today announced its accreditation as an International Baccalaureate® (IB) school. ICS will offer the only officially recognized IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) in Rhode Island, and it is the only public-funded school in the state with an IB program.

With this certification, ICS has become the newest member of a global community of 4,783 schools in 147 different countries offering the IB curriculum. IB has a unique and innovative approach to learning, which seeks to create a better and more peaceful world through an academically rigorous curricular framework.

Founded in 1968 in Switzerland, IB offers a high-quality continuum of international education to a worldwide community of schools. The PYP is for students aged 3 to 12, the Middle Years Programme for students aged 11-16, the Diploma Programme for students aged 16 to 18, and the Career-related Program for students aged 16-19. Like all PYP programmes across the globe, ICS's is inquiry-led and, through its [transdisciplinary framework](#), challenges students to think independently and take responsibility for their learning as they explore local and global issues and opportunities in real-life contexts.

"This marks the end of a three journey in which our faculty and staff have worked diligently to create and implement the IB framework at ICS," says school director Julie Nora. "We all made this happen together because we believe strongly in the power of an IB education, and because it's such a great extension of the work we have been doing for the past 17 years."

"ICS is continuing to deliver on its promise as an independent charter school," says Chad Galts, president of the school's Board of Trustees. "IB benefits the students and families of ICS, and it makes the school a state-wide model for innovative teaching and learning practices. The school's leadership and faculty are working hard to make the school better -- and to share those lessons with other schools and teachers. We are grateful for their deep commitment to teaching."

ICS is especially well-suited to the IB model because the school is already so focused on global citizenship. Drawing predominantly on students from the Spanish-, Portuguese-, English-speaking communities in RI, ICS teaches *all* of its students in two languages and actively teaches students an appreciation of their own and other cultures. "We wanted to build on our dual language and other programs to offer an even better education that will give our students the skills, knowledge, and outlook to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century— in their local communities and in the wider world," she says.

The real driving force for the successful adoption of IB, Nora adds, is the ICS faculty and staff. “While the IB framework builds on many of ICS’s existing strengths, teachers had to develop an entirely new curriculum, new assessments and adopt new approaches to teaching. I can’t say enough about how fortunate ICS is to have such a capable, diligent and committed staff and faculty.”

David Estes, the Principal of the only IB Diploma school in RI, says, “As an International Baccalaureate (IB) school for over 25 years, The Prout School can attest to the rigor of the IB standards and the unmatched preparation for college that it provides for our students. We are pleased that the International Charter School has adopted the IB Programme for its elementary students. We look forward to any and all opportunities for collaboration with the entire ICS community as the only other IB school in Rhode Island.”

“The International Charter School is known and respected for their work in dual language education, a model that acknowledges what an incredible asset it is to be multilingual in a 21st century economy,” said Ken Wagner, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “And as an authorized public IB Primary Years Programme, ICS will not only be equipping students with the language skills they need, but also – through the rigor and high academic standards of the IB framework – preparing young people to be successful global citizens.”

Continued professional development for educators is an essential component of IB. Transformative professional development empowers teachers to do the same for their students. Because IB is an international network of schools, ICS educators are able to learn from other educators from across the globe.

ICS had established itself as a leader in dual language education and provides professional development in language acquisition through summer workshops. ICS is excited to expand our repertoire of leadership for Rhode Island and beyond.

ICS holds its lottery for the 2018-19 school year on March 1st. They receive approximately 800 applications annually for 66 available spots in the school.

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## Notes to Editors

### For more information, contact:

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### About the International Charter School:

The International Charter School is a elementary public school of choice, located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Founded in 2001, ICS serves 362 students in grades K-5 and features two dual language programs: Spanish-English and Portuguese-English.

The mission of ICS is to integrate the diverse languages and cultures of the communities it serves by teaching all students in two languages-in Spanish and English or in

Portuguese and English-and helping children develop an appreciation of other cultures. Children learn to work collaboratively from their multiple experiences and backgrounds, striving towards high standards of academic achievement. Everyone is part of a community of learners, engaging in inquiry about the world, themselves, and others.

**About the International Baccalaureate:**

Founded in 1968 the International Baccalaureate (IB) is a non-profit foundation, which offers four high quality and challenging educational programs for a worldwide community of schools. For close to 50 years, IB programs have gained a reputation for their rigor and high academic standards, for preparing students for life in a globalized 21st century, and for helping to develop citizens who will create a better, more peaceful world. Currently, more than 1.3 million IB students attend over 4,500 schools in 147 countries. To learn more, please visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

For information about the number of IB World Schools and programmes offered in the United States please visit: <http://www.ibo.org/en/about-the-ib/the-ib-by-country/>  
For further information about the International Baccalaureate please visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).