

Message from Director General Siva Kumari

Dear Head of School/Coordinator,

We hope this email reaches you and your school community safe and well. The COVID-19 global pandemic has and continues to have a significant impact on all our daily lives. We know the incredible work Heads of Schools, teachers and coordinators are undertaking as they manage instruction for all students suddenly at a distance and online. We are really in awe of your efforts and dedication to your students.

We, in the IB have been working as expeditiously as possible to support you as we ourselves face the challenges brought forward by this unprecedented situation. We are committed, as one IB, to serve you as best as we can and for all of us, it has been a rallying singular purpose.

We know that alongside the concerns for your students' future you are also having to plan for your budgets and so we want to share details with you about IB fees for this year and next (2021) ahead of sending our annual invoices.

Fees for 2021

For the past five years, since 2015, the IB has not increased fees for any of our services. For the past three fiscal years, we have not increased by the minimum cost of living increase. This is because we believe that we should be providing you more service for less cost and work extremely efficiently as an organization.

Even though, we know we have faced income loss in 2020 due to cancelled conferences, PD events, visits and additional costs to be able to assess and award student work for the May 2020 cohorts, we have chosen to keep the fees on that downward reduction. Keeping fees flat for six years in a row while our costs continue to rise. Giving more service value for less cost is a value we hold dear.

Therefore, fees for 2021 will remain the same as the past six years which will be the fourth year we will not even have increased for the minimum cost of living expenses.

Fee reductions

In addition to implementing no fee increase for annual fees and all other fees for a sixth year, in 2019, we announced the elimination of the \$119 per candidate registration fee, the flat fee applied to each student registering for IB examinations on top of the per subject fee. Your students benefited from that decreased fee while enrolling from November 2019, May 2020 and onwards.

Further, we have also introduced discounts for schools offering 3 or more programmes by 20% across all three programmes beginning in the 2018 school year.

Simultaneously, for no additional fees, we have increased the options available for professional development, including the provision of free “nano PD” so that more teachers can benefit from expert support. We are continuing to invest in and develop online PD opportunities- you can view the current available [online PD here](#). During this crisis, we have modified many of our face to face offerings transitioning them online, we have increased the number of webinars on topics of interest to you and we continue to add more free offerings each month.

We have also adapted our authorization and evaluation services to be offered remotely.

Finally, we have created an ‘on-demand’ virtual ‘in-school’ workshop with reduced pricing.

We are here for you

We know that many schools may face financial hardships this year. We want you to know we are here. Please send us your concerns to support@ibo.org and we will do the best we can to work with you as much as we can. We need you to know that we are standing by to be of help. Once we hear from you, we will connect and see how we can work together to make it easy for you during these hard times.

Finally, I want to take this time once again to thank you for all that you have done to support our students and each other in these extraordinary times. I know that as an IB World community we will continue to come together to ensure the continued success of our students.

Keep Well,

Siva Kumari

Director General