

Admissions Policy

VERSION 2.2

SHARPSTOWN
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL



Admission to Sharpstown International School

Sharpstown International School (SIS) operates within the Houston Independent School District (HISD). HISD is considered a “district of choice” meaning students have options in their enrollment choices to meet their educational needs. All students in HISD have a school that they are “zoned” (assigned) to based on their residence as well as opportunities to apply to “magnet” programs at other schools throughout the district. SIS is a magnet-only school, meaning there is no particular attendance zone. All students enrolled at SIS have applied and been accepted through HISD’s school choice system, where students are placed in a lottery and offered available seats at the school.

Admission to IB Programmes

SIS is authorized by the IB to offer the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP).

SIS employs an open access approach to the rich educational opportunities provided by the implementation of IB programmes. All students enrolled at SIS are participants in the IB MYP in grades 6-10. Even though the program officially ends at grade 10, most aspects of the MYP philosophy and framework for teaching is employed across the school, including in 11th and 12th grade classrooms. Beginning with the class of 2023, students may opt to pursue the IB Diploma through enrollment in the IB DP. Though it is recommended that students take advanced courses in grades 9 and 10 to best prepare for the academic rigor of the DP, it is not a requirement. Any student who chooses to pursue the IB Diploma will be encouraged to do so.

Rationale

At Sharpstown International School, we firmly believe that all students deserve opportunities to experience academic rigor and to develop themselves personally and academically while in our care. Any student who wishes to pursue the most challenging pathways we offer will not only be allowed to do so, but encouraged to do so, and supported along the way. The role of this school is not to create obstacles between students and a rigorous education, but to remove obstacles in their way.

Employees of the Houston Independent School District shall not discriminate on the basis of or engage in harassment motivated by age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, marital status, religion, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression. Additionally, we believe that a child’s access to educational opportunities should not be constrained by their zip code or socio-economic status. Thus, we strive to provide rich educational opportunities to all children who choose us, regardless of their demographic profile or educational background.

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually in May by the Shared Decision-Making Committee (SDMC) and communicated to the school community through the school website. Teachers and other staff members participate in annual refresher training on our policies and practices during August in-service as well as ongoing professional development as needed throughout the school year. Amendments to this policy are considered as needed based on changes to IB policy, federal and state policies, district policy, and community needs.