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2020 PSP authorization system postponement: FAQs

2020 Programme standards and practices (PSP) authorization system postponement

Frequently asked questions

If we use the current system, will we need to be reauthorized for the 2020 PSP once the system launches?

No. Once a school is authorized to offer an IB programme, they will then begin their evaluation process which happens every five years. They will be supported by their IB World Schools manager and the focus will be on supporting 2020 PSP programme development.

Will schools be required to fill in the *Application for candidacy* form again when the 2020 PSP system launches?

No. Schools will not be required to re-complete any forms or stages of the process once the updated system is launched.

If we use the current system that has not been updated to reflect the 2020 PSP, will 2020 PSP workshops be valid for the application for candidacy and rest of the authorization process?

Yes. While the system has not been updated to reflect the 2020 PSP, we understand that many schools applying for candidacy after 1 August 2022 will be using the 2020 PSP until the new system is launched. During this time, we will be flexible and accept both the 2014 and 2020 versions of workshops.

Does the list of mandatory documents to be uploaded follow the list included in the PSP 2020 sample applications?

No. Schools will need to provide the documents requested in the system, which has not yet been updated to reflect the PSP 2020 sample applications. While the structure of the templates in the system does not reflect the 2020 PSP, the questions, evidence, documents, and feedback will provide all the information required to move smoothly through the authorization process. We advise you to focus on the questions, evidence, documents, and feedback rather than the structure of the template.

Can we decide to switch from the current system to the new system that reflects the 2020 PSP when it launches?

No. Schools who enter the candidacy process using the current system will need to complete the authorization process using that system. Once a school is authorized to offer an IB programme, they will then begin their five-year evaluation process supported by their IB World Schools manager in which the focus will be on supporting 2020 PSP programme development.

Will our authorization process have a different timeframe if we are using the 2020 PSPs in practice but completing applications and receiving feedback via a system that does not reflect them? What about costs?

No. The authorization process is based on a school readiness model and will continue to do so during this time and once the 2020 PSP system is launched. The costs of the authorization process remain unchanged.

How can we as a school coordinate our two candidate programmes if one is using the 2014 PSPs and another is using the 2020 PSPs? Are resources and support available?

Yes. The IB has published [PSP 2014 to PSP 2020 transition support crosswalk for candidate schools](#). This guidance document demonstrates the connections between the 2014 and 2020 versions of the *Programme standards and practices*. Schools that apply for candidacy after 1 August 2022 will be supported by IB staff and educators who have been trained to support the implementation of both the 2014 and 2020 PSP.

Can we use the action plan that is currently in the system?

Yes. Schools will have the option of using the 2014 PSP action plan via the system or the offline 2020 PSP action plan for schools applying for candidacy after 1 August 2022. Regardless of which action plan you choose to use, all matters to be addressed (MTBA) resolutions must be completed via the “Action plan” in the system.

I completed the 2020 PSP head of school training as per the transition guidance, will this workshop be accepted for meeting candidacy requirements?

Yes. During this time, we will accept both the 2014 and 2020 versions of workshops.

Does the programme coordinator need to have completed or be registered for training within the first six months of candidacy as stated in the PSP 2020 requirements?

No. During this time, programme coordinators will be expected to complete their required professional development during the authorization process. We encourage them to do this as early in the process as possible.

Under the 2020 PSP, schools who are already authorized for the DP and are seeking authorization for the CP receive 20 hours of consultation and a consultation visit. As the system has not been updated to reflect the 2020 PSP will our school still receive the additional hours and visit?

Yes. Schools authorized for the DP and seeking authorization for the CP will receive the 20 hours of remote consultation and consultant visit. During this period schools will have the option of waiving the visit.

As the system will not reflect the 2020 PSP, will there be additional requirements for candidacy or authorization that we need to meet but do not see in the system?

No. We will not be asking schools to meet any requirements in addition to those currently in the system and verifiable through the questions, evidence, documents, and feedback within it. The authorization expectations, as outlined in the system, reflect a list of practices that need to be in place for authorization. These can be found in the guide to school authorization documents and the sample applications for authorization that are available for the relevant programme from: ibo.org/become-an-ib-school/useful-resources

We are a new school who applied after 1 August 2022 and would like to refer to the 2014 PSP *Guide to school authorization* as this contains a clear list of expectations that corresponds to the system, can we do this?

Yes. The 2014 version of the *Guide to school authorization* is aligned to the system and can be used by schools.