

South Carolina *Parents Involved in Education*



November 2004



PIE



Because parents are the
most important piece of the pie!

Global Education Experiment in South Carolina

By Deb Marks

South Carolinians will not read about the information presented in this article in The State newspaper nor would a New Yorker read about it in the New York Times. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program has not been highly publicized in South Carolina or the United States for that matter.

South Carolina is known to be a state that will pilot new, often unproven educational programs in a desperate attempt to improve the overall education of its children. Unfortunately, over the last 30 years, and especially in the last decade, though many guinea pig programs have been tried, South Carolina remains at the bottom in all national measurement standards.

What is the International Baccalaureate Program? The IB program is a global United Nations curriculum promoting secular humanism in American public (and some private) schools. Secular Humanism is considered a religion, categorized under pagan, whereas Protestant, Catholic and Judaism are categorized under, Biblical. Oversight of this program ultimately is by local govern-

ment. The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) was founded in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland. IBO describes itself as "a non-profit, mission-driven foundation that works with 1426 schools (as of October 2004) to develop and offer three challenging programs in 117 countries to approximately 200,000 students" (<http://www.ibo.org>). Over 36% of the IB program schools are in the United States with 5% in South Carolina. Schools participating in the IB program must adhere to the IB guidelines, assessments/exams, curriculum, educational philosophies, etc., which are determined by the Council of Foundation of IBO in Switzerland. Original funding for IBO came from UNESCO (the education arm of the United Nations), The Ford Foundation and the Century Foundation (formerly The Twentieth Century Fund) and funding continues from these organizations as well and various national governments to include the United States.

The IB program was originally developed to facilitate the international mobility of students to attend universities in Europe. This organization has developed three programs, targeting children ages 3 through 19. The curriculum focus for IB is

the UNESCO (United Nations) education curriculum and the Earth Charter approach to environmental issues according to EdWatch (<http://edwatch.org/updates/063004.htm>).

The middle and diploma program years have grown from a western humanist tradition to the increasing influence of non-western cultures in all levels, ages 3 through 19. The diploma program requires a specific course entitled, "Islamic History". Islam is a religion, not a culture. There is no mention of a course in "Western History" or even American History", just history. This program is another multicultural education experiment with America's children.

Who is paying for the IB program? Guess who? American taxpayer funds have contributed to this program since 1978 and continue to contribute through various funding channels. According to FY 2005 Budget Facts (<http://www.EducationNews.org/fy-2005-budget-facts.htm>), supporting state and local implementation of No Child Left Behind (US Dept. of Ed. 2/4/04), \$28 million dollars has been allocated for the Advanced Placement program to ensure

(Continued on page 6)

Charleston Superintendent Loses Moral Authority to Lead School District

By Terrye Seckinger

Citizens of Charleston were stunned to learn our school superintendent is approximately six months pregnant and just married the father of her child on September 24th. I wish the child health and wellness. Some question if Dr. Goodloe should resign. The question we should ask is, "What type of leadership does Charleston County desire from a Superintendent? The choices made by Dr. Good-

loe weigh heavily on the morale of the county staff as evidenced by the communications I continue to receive surrounding her ability to continue to lead.

I deeply regret the Superintendent's choice to compromise herself with an out-of-wedlock pregnancy. This conveys a gross lack of judgment and self-control. Is this what we desire the students of Charleston County to emulate? Is this the type of moral leadership that we want mentoring our children? In her e-mail to

district employees, she is unapologetic concerning her indiscretions and states she is proudly now the parent of 44,000 +1, recommitting herself to even greater service to our students than before her pregnancy.

S.C. mandates by law abstinence based

(Continued on page 7)



Experiment

(Continued from page 1)

that teachers in low-income schools are well-trained to teach AP and International Baccalaureate courses.

Where is the IB program? Twenty-seven of the 527 International Baccalaureate schools in the United States are located in South Carolina as of September 2004.

The following South Carolina schools have IB programs in place: A.C. Flora High School, Aiken High School, Aynor High School, Battery Creek High School, Beaufort High School, Broad River Elementary School (added June 2004), Christ Church Episcopal School (DP program), Christ Church Episcopal School (Primary School program), Christ Church Episcopal School (CCES) (Middle School program), Fort Dorchester High School, Greer High School, Hilton Head Elementary School, Hilton Head High School, Irmo High School (added September 2004), James Island High School, North August High School, Northwestern High School, Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, Port Royal Elementary School, Rock Hill High School, Sara Collins Elementary School, Socastee High School, Southside High School, Southside High School/Beck Academy, Sumter High School, Travelers Rest High School, Wilson High School, Wilson High School/Williams Middle School, and Woodmont High School. Each school is listed on the IB website (<http://www.ibo.org> - IB world schools - U.S.) and general information can be obtained about each program.

According to an article published by EdWatch "Issues in Action" e-letter, A.C.

Flora High School was showcased in an IB Seminar Presentation in Danvers, MA, October 26-27, 2002. "A. C. Flora's plan for integrating global concerns into the curricula will be addressed in the curriculum of each course in a variety of ways, depending on the type of course." ". . . Speakers from the community will address relevant issues, and students will attend university and community events that emphasize plurality and multiculturalism . . ." The entire seminar presentation can be read at: <http://www.richlandonline.org/acflora/Ibprogram/ibseminarpresentation.html>.

Will the IB program increase the number of SC graduates? In an article written in August 2003, John McCaslin, a Washington Times columnist noted that, "every day, 3000 secondary students in the United States drop out. Once the 2003-2004 school year gets underway, 540,000 young people will walk away from the classroom without earning a diploma." The national average dropout rate at that time, was 41%. In South Carolina in 2004, that dropout number is 50% for every 9th grader and South Carolina remains dead last in test scores with minimal improvement. The question begs to be asked, How can this program improve education in South Carolina, particularly for those 50% who will probably not graduate? Presently, students in the IB program earn the standard SC diploma by taking the required 24 courses and passing the exit exam. Will this always be the case for students in the IB program? Will the South Carolina diploma be substituted for an IB certificate? In the state of Virginia, Woodson High School in Fairfax dropped the IB program after fierce opposition. This high school began using the

IB program in place of the AP (Advanced Placement program). Parents and teachers were irate when



they found out that the IB courses and certificate were not acceptable at top-ranked Virginia colleges. A parent, Jeanne Geiger, in Virginia stated in the Reston Connection (2002) that, "Administrators do not tell you that the current IB program for ages 3 through grade 12 promotes socialism, disarmament, radical environmentalism, and moral relativism, while attempting to undermine Christian religious values and national sovereignty." See article published in the February 2004 Education Reporters:

<http://www.eagleforum.org/educate/2004/mar04/ib.html>.)

Who is accountable/responsible for this program? The United States government is responsible for approving the program and funds it. On the state level, the State Department of Education receives the funding and markets it to individual school districts. On the local school level, the school board makes these decisions. At every level where these decisions are made, there are elected officials who should be held accountable for this indoctrination of children. South Carolinians are encouraged to question their representatives on the local, state and national level regarding this program and ask them why we have it in our South Carolina schools.

(Deb Marks, a former educator, is an independent Education and Legislative Analyst.)

Overpopulation Myth

China's laws limiting family size (often resulting in forced abortions) is rationalized in public school textbooks as a solution to overpopulation. Geography textbooks in particular categorize population trends as a significant issue for cultural studies. The population trend is typically described as a potential crisis promulgating the myth of overpopulation. A new book argues the world is actually headed toward a population shortage.

Author of the book, "Fewer," Ben Wattenberg says, "Never have birth and fertility rates fallen so far, so fast, so low, for so long, in so many places, so surprisingly." Using data derived from the United Nations, the author concludes the imbalance between births and deaths predicts a shrinking world population.

