

Building Bridges: The Benefits of Utilizing Future Problem Solving with IB

The International Baccalaureate (IB) programme and Future Problem Solving (FPS) both encourage students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world.

Infusing Future Problem Solving in IB schools comes naturally. What FPS provides is easy to implement and students benefit from participating in our local and international competitive, collaborative programs.

The IB's mission states that it "aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect." This aligns with the FPS mission "to develop the ability of young people globally to design and achieve positive futures through problem solving using critical and creative thinking."

Conclusion: It's beneficial to infuse FPS into IB studies.

The IB program uses several distinct approaches to learning (ATL); these ATLs include **thinking skills** (creative, critical & transfer), **social skills** (collaboration), **communication skills**, **self-management skills**, and **research skills**. These skills support self-regulation and intrinsic motivation. These approaches are vital skills to develop in students to prepare them for working, both independently and collaboratively in the workspace—all of which are reinforced in Future Problem Solving.

IB's key components include the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP), IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), and IB Diploma Programme—which focus specifically on connecting students with both **local and global** issues, and how to address them. These programs have an **exhibition** component, where students are responsible for a long-term personal project that addresses a certain issue or situation prevalent in their community. The FPS program manifests these skills in its Community Problem Solving (CmPS) component.



FPSPi's 2019 International Conference at UMass Amherst—Community Problem Solving Showcase

Future Problem Solving takes the lesson to the next level via competition.

FPS enables students to think about a creative solution to a local problem, apply it, and through a collaborative and competitive environment, **build** on these solutions.

FPS encourages students to become **inquirers**; developing an affinity for researching, constructing, and applying complex theories and technologies.

Real-world problems are often multi-layered, and FPS teaches students to take a step back and examine the bigger picture; to blend old, emerging, and existing technologies in unique ways. FPS **topics** such as 3D-printing, nanotechnology, and drones are explored in creative and critical ways to find solutions to global issues.

IB teaches the **foundations** of problem-solving to students, helping them to first see and identify issues—and builds up personal creativity, activity, and service through their exhibition programs. FPS takes each of these core components and teaches students to **effectively collaborate** with others, using all of their personal ideas as pieces of the same puzzle, to make a lasting impact both locally and globally.

Working in teams, ideas are refined and practically applied. In competition, students see how others solve the same problem, resulting in an incredible learning experience—as well as teaching them how to work together.

Preparing students to work together in a corporate environment, FPS provides a unique experience addressing community and global issues, individually and as a team. In the end, it rewards creativity and collaboration with solutions that make their world a better place.

Students are invited to partipate in our international network and competitions, from local affiliates to the International Conference (IC). Giving your students access to this world is an opportunity for their own personal and collective growth.



Contact us for more information. Let us show you how easy it is to implement FPS, build on the foundation of excellence that IB provides, and add a new level of engagement in your programs.

Input provided by IB educators that are also Future Problem Solving coaches, Lesley Schafer of Norway and Diane Tomko of Florida, USA.



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