



Closing the attainment gap in the US

How Cambridge International qualifications are helping improve student outcomes. Participation in the Cambridge International programme has grown exponentially since it was first introduced in the US in 1995. Just over 500 public schools across 35 states now offer Cambridge International qualifications to raise educational standards and improve College and Career Readiness (CCR) Scores*.

More than 700 US universities now offer course credits for Cambridge qualifications, reducing the length and cost of a degree – a tangible benefit for students which widens access to university and also encourages course completion. In addition, data shows that in many schools Cambridge qualifications play a crucial role in closing opportunity and achievement gaps, so that students from disadvantaged backgrounds have an equal chance of success.

State of Florida

Out of the top 10 schools for improved CCR Scores*, seven teach the Cambridge programme

The first Cambridge school in the USA opened in Florida in 1995. In 2021, the Cambridge programme is being taught in 388 schools across the State, all with an average of 56% minority enrolment and with 61% of students coming from low income households. In 2018–2019, seven of the top ten Florida schools to achieve the highest increases in CCR Score* taught the Cambridge programme.

School District of Palm Beach County – 589% increase in students taking Cambridge qualifications.

The first Cambridge school in Palm Beach County opened in 2008. In 2021, all 24 district High Schools teach the Cambridge programme. As a result, between 2012 and 2018, Cambridge exam entries increased by 589%, with a 5% increase in pass rates.

John I Leonard School, Palm Beach County – School Performance Grade average rises from C to B.**

A Cambridge school since 2013, with 89.7% minority enrolment, and 88.5% of students coming from low income households.

- 2016–19: CCR Score* increased every year, from 49 to 55.
- 2016–18: School Performance Grade** increased from C to B.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools – 29% increase in Black/Non-Hispanic students taking Cambridge exams.

MDCPS became a Cambridge Associate in 2014 and is the fourth largest school district in the US. The Cambridge programme is currently taught in 15 high schools, 32 lower

secondary schools and 39 primary schools in the district. Between 2010–2020, entries for the Cambridge AICE Diploma*** increased by 752%, with a 29% growth in entries from Black/Non-Hispanic students between 2017–2020.

Center for International Education – 92% minority enrolment, 80% take Cambridge qualifications.

A Cambridge school since 2017. Students are mainly children of migrant workers, and often the first in their families to graduate from high school, and to go to college or university. Minority enrolment is 92%, with 70% of students coming from low income households.

- 2019: 80% of students received the Cambridge AICE Diploma***.

Miami Norland Senior High School – School Performance Grade average rises from D to B.**

A Cambridge school since 2017 with 99% minority enrolment, and 74% of students coming from low income households.

- 2016–18:
 - Average School Performance Grade** raised from D to B.
 - CCR* scores increased by 40%, from 48% to 88%.
 - Exam entries increased by 145%.



State of Virginia

Potomac Senior High School – outperforming state reading scores.

A Cambridge International school since 2002, with 76% minority enrolment, and 50% of students coming from low income households.

- 2015–2016: Student reading scores outperform state scores in every demographic group.

State of Kentucky

Fairdale High School – CCR* Scores rise by 30%.

A Cambridge International School since 2013 with 40% minority enrolment, and 71% of students coming from low income households.

- Since adopting the Cambridge programme, the school has been removed from State Corrective Action.
- 2012–2021: CCR* Score rises from 36.9% to 67.2%.



* College & career readiness (CCR) score

An indicator of a school's ability to develop its students' academic skills and college preparedness, and to provide career-preparatory experiences. It is one of many indicators used to better understand school quality, and improvement in quality.

** School performance grade

A measure of school performance covering factors such as achievement, learning gains, middle school acceleration, graduation rate and college and career acceleration. Schools are graded A to F. Also known as 'School Grade' in Florida.

*** Cambridge AICE Diploma

A popular group award taught in many US schools which requires study of Cambridge International AS & A Level courses from a range of subject areas.

Learn more! For more information please visit www.cambridgeinternational.org or contact Customer Services on +44 (0)1223 553554 or email info@cambridgeinternational.org

