

International School of Panama

Panama City, Panama



Panama's only nonprofit independent international school, running a college-prep American curriculum since 1982

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	49/100
Academic outcomes	50/100
University placement	48/100
Prestige & heritage	48/100
Alumni network	47/100
Facilities	53/100
Transparency	39/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

International School of Panama occupies a distinct place in this market: it is Panama’s only nonprofit independent international school, and that matters. In a city where many schools trade on brand language or ownership groups, ISP’s structure gives it a cleaner proposition: educate well, send pupils to university, reinvest in the school. It has run an American curriculum since **1982**, teaches in English, and carries IB World School status alongside MSA accreditation. For parents who want a school with a clear academic centre of gravity rather than a hospitality-style sales pitch, that is a *serious advantage*.

The draw is straightforward. ISP covers the full **3-18** age range, which gives families continuity from

early years to graduation, and it does so in a non-religious setting that suits internationally mobile households. The American curriculum will appeal to families targeting US, Canadian and international university routes, while the IB authorisation adds breadth and external credibility at the senior end. This is not the obvious choice for parents who want a British pathway, a faith-based ethos or boarding. It is the school for families who value **institutional stability**, **academic direction** and a **clear international peer group** over ornate branding.

Why shortlist it? Because in Panama, nonprofit status plus an established college-prep American model is a rare combination. ISP has the age range, the recognisable curriculum, the English-medium delivery and the accreditations that international parents scan for first. It also has the **quiet confidence** of a school that does not need to invent a personality. The strongest fit is the student who wants a structured, university-facing education in English, is comfortable in a diverse expatriate and internationally minded community, and benefits from a school with a **grown-up sense of purpose**. Ambitious, mobile families who want consistency rather than drama will find that ISP earns close inspection.

STRENGTHS

- Founded 1982; established option in Panama City.
- Serves ages 3–18 on one school pathway.
- English-medium instruction suits anglophone expatriate families.
- IB World School with MSA accreditation.

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only; no boarding for overseas families.
- American curriculum may not suit British-curriculum families.
- Non-religious setting won't suit faith-based preferences.

ADMISSIONS

International School of Panama is a day school in Panama City serving ages 3–18, from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12. The obvious entry points are therefore the early years, primary, middle and high school transitions, though the school does not publicly set out preferred intake years in the material provided. Nor does it publish, in the sources here, a detailed admissions calendar, fixed application deadlines, or a breakdown of assessment by age. Parents should assume a standard rolling international-school process, but confirm timing and requirements directly with the admissions office.

On selection, the school’s published facts establish only that it is a non-religious English-medium school offering an American curriculum and IB authorisation. The available sources do not specify whether admission involves interviews, previous school reports, standardised testing, English-language screening, or a place-availability review, though these are common elements in comparable schools. Likewise, no bursary or financial-aid provision is stated in the source material supplied here, so families should not assume assistance is available without checking directly.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_ae8daaa6d9.