

Colegio Bilingüe Diana Oese

Cali, Colombia



On a 3-hectare farm campus in La Buitrera, a sensory bilingual method has topped Colombia's Saber 11 rankings twice.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	42/100
Academic outcomes	48/100
University placement	42/100
Prestige & heritage	38/100
Alumni network	35/100
Facilities	50/100
Transparency	35/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Colegio Bilingüe Diana Oese occupies a distinct niche in Cali: a bilingual day school on a **3-hectare** farm campus in La Buitrera, founded in **1983**, with a Colombian and American curriculum and IB accreditation. The headline fact is hard to ignore: the school has finished first in Colombia’s Saber 11 rankings twice. That matters. In a market crowded with schools that promise bilingualism and holistic education, Diana Oese has delivered a measurable national result. The setting also sets it apart. A rural-edge campus with animals, open land and younger children learning through a sensory method gives the school a *clear identity* and a *strong sense of place*, not the interchangeable feel of an urban college-prep campus.

What is special here is the combination of academic seriousness and environmental texture. Many schools offer bilingual instruction in Spanish and English; fewer pair it with a campus and teaching model that lean so heavily on sensory learning and daily contact with nature. For the right family, that produces a **rare mix**: rigorous academic ambition without a sterile atmosphere. The school's age range, ***3-18***, also gives it continuity from early childhood to university entry, which suits parents who want one institution rather than repeated transitions. The critical caveat is that the same defining features narrow the audience. Families who want a dense city-campus social scene, a conspicuously international student mix, or a broad public data set on outcomes beyond headline distinctions may find the school less compelling. Diana Oese's appeal rests on its method, campus and top-end local academic credibility.

It belongs on a shortlist for parents who want a school with **genuine academic punch** and an educational environment that feels **grounded rather than performative**. This is not the obvious choice for families shopping by brand name alone; it is the sharper choice for those who value a school with a specific educational philosophy and evidence that it can convert that philosophy into results. The best fit is a student who thrives in a structured bilingual setting, responds well to experiential learning, and benefits from a campus that offers space, routine and sensory richness. Children who are curious, observant and comfortable outside the hyper-urban mould will find plenty to work with here. Ambitious students aiming for strong Colombian outcomes, while also wanting English woven into daily schooling, are the core market. For them, Diana Oese offers **substance over gloss** and a **distinctive educational proposition**.

STRENGTHS

- The school has been ranked first nationally among Calendar-B private schools in Colombia's ICFCES Saber 11 exam in multiple years, including 2013, 2016, 2019 and again in a recent year, with a second historic first-place finish among Calendar B institutions.
- Campus sits on more than 40,000 square metres where art, play, literature and exploration are woven into the formative process, including a farm, several animal species, a vegetable garden, fruit trees and a stream forming its educational ecosystem.
- Founded in 1983 by educator Esperanza Rivas Montes, a bilingualism specialist and teacher by vocation, giving the school four decades of continuity under its founding leadership.
- The school was named the top-ranked institution nationally for educational quality in the 2025 Col-Sapiens Ranking, one of the country's most recognised studies for evaluating educational institutions.
- Received formal national recognition when Colombia's Congress awarded the school the Order of Boyaca, one of the country's civic honours.

TRADE-OFFS

- Operates on Colombia's Calendar B academic cycle, a minority scheduling system domestically, which can complicate transfers to or from the more common Calendar A schools.
- Campus is located in the rural corregimiento of La Buitrera, about 3 minutes from Holguines Trade Center on the road south out of the city, meaning families based in central or northern Cali face a real commute.
- Publicly available school materials describe the curriculum in bilingual and values-based terms but do not clearly document a specific US accreditation body or American diploma partnership, so the 'American curriculum' label should be verified directly with the school.
- Reported tuition figures vary considerably across sources and years -- one survey cites an average preschool enrolment fee of 640,000 pesos while another lists an enrolment fee of 851,000 pesos -- indicating fee transparency requires a direct, up-to-date quote from the school rather than reliance on published averages.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from pre-kindergarten through secondary, aligned to Colombia's Calendar B year (August-June). For younger applicants the school conducts an observation of basic learning skills, followed by a joint interview of parents and child with the school psychologist at the admissions board's discretion. The admissions committee then reviews the file, a process typically taking two to five business days, before notifying families by email; accepted families must complete enrolment within eight business days. Given the school's strong ICFES track record, places are locally sought after, though no official acceptance-rate figure is published.

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_57f970e370.