



## **ABGS Middle School Inclusion Policy**

ABGS Middle School is committed to supporting all students in reaching their highest potential. It is the philosophy of ABGS Middle School that every child can learn and should be provided with creative interventions and modifications specific to identified needs that will help to support and promote academic success for all.

ABGS provides comprehensive Special Education services that are student centered and address the varied needs of learners who may require modifications or supports to provide equity and access to instruction. The primary goal is to implement instruction in the least restrictive setting. All services comply with IDEA and all local, state, and federal requirements that govern special education.

### **Definition of Special Education:**

**Individual Education Plan (IEP):** Plan or program developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives specialized instruction and related services.

**504 Plan:** Plan developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives accommodations and modifications that will ensure their academic success and access to the learning environment.

**Committee on Special Education (CSE):** a multidisciplinary team, that meets at least annually to develop, review and or revise a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and determine the best instructional program from that point forward.

**Integrated Co-teaching (ICT):** A blended classroom consisting of a General Education Teacher and a Special Education Teacher.

### **Examples of special education needs:**

- Specific learning disabilities
- Language and communication disorders
- Emotional and behavioral difficulties
- Visual, hearing or physical disabilities
- Mental health conditions
- English Language Learners

### **IDEA**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is federal law enacted in 1975 and reauthorized in 2004 (PL 108-446). It is designed to protect the rights of learners with disabilities by ensuring that everyone receives a free, appropriate, public education regardless of ability. Furthermore, IDEA strives not only to grant equal access to learners with disabilities, but also to provide additional special education services and procedural safeguards.

## **Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability. Learners who do not qualify for special education services under IDEA may qualify for accommodations under Section 504. Section 504's definition of disability is broader than the IDEA's definition. ABGS Middle School follow the federal guidelines set by Section 504.

## **Special Education Services**

The Special Education program at ABGS Middle School is inclusive of a full continuum of instructional services and placements, designed to address the needs of students who require additional supports, interventions, or modifications to the instructional program. Services are determined as set forth in each student's Individual Education Plan, IEP.

The instructional program may include:

- Integrated Co-teaching (ICT) model of instruction
- Supplementary services in general education
- Supplementary services in special education
- Self-contained classroom
- English as a New Language
- Individual instruction
- Small-group instruction
- Special class instruction
- Accommodations for the learner
- Modifications in curriculum, instruction, and/or environment
- Differentiation in content, process and/or product
- Resource Room

## **Assessment of Students with Special Educational Needs**

The MYP program at ABGS Middle School is one that is inclusive. Students with special educational needs will be assessed in accordance to the accommodations and modifications as outlined in their Individual Education Plan or 504 Accommodation Plan.

## **Communication**

This Inclusion policy will be published on the school and district website, discussed in September for each grade level, and during open school night in September with parents and guardians of students.

## **Review Process**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the ABGS IB Committee and multiple stakeholders who are a representative sample of the school community, and inclusive of Special Education Teachers.

***Originating Committee Members:** Robin Branch, Neclisha Davis, Mishka Fox, Raquel Goldsmith, Sonia Hood, Claire Lamothe, Alphonse Persico, Claude Irwin, Dawn Sumner, Pamela Green, Dawn Granville, April Keys*

*This policy will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year, mid-year and in June of each school year. Revisions and updates will be made as needed. The policy will be communicated with parents and the entire school community at the beginning of each year and will be included on the school's website.*