



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 their identified needs and will support and promote academic success for all.

ABGS provides comprehensive Special Education services which are student centered and address the varied needs of differently abled learners who may require modifications or support to provide equity and access to instruction. Instruction is implemented in the least restrictive environment in compliance with IDEA and all local and state regulations for special education.

Special Education Terminology:

Individual Education Plan (IEP): A written educational plan developed by an educational team and a student's parents to ensure a student with a disability has a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): A federal educational law enacted in 1975 and reauthorized in 2004 (PL 108-446) ensures public schools serve the educational needs of students with disabilities with procedural safeguards. There are 13 disability classifications which a student may be classified as with an IEP.

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

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 IDEA's. ABGS Middle School follows the federal guidelines set by Section 504.

Committee on Special Education (CSE): A multi-disciplinary team that meets at least annually to develop, review and/or revise a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to determine the most appropriate instructional program going forward.

ABGS' specialized instructional programs may include but are not limited to:

- Special class
- Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT)
- Resource Room

ABGS' specialized services may include:

- Speech and language services
- Counseling
- Occupational therapy services
- Physical therapy services

Assessment of Students with Disabilities:

The MYP program at ABGS Middle School is inclusive. Students with special educational needs will be assessed in accordance with the accommodations, modifications and goals outlined in their IEP or their 504 Accommodations plan.

Communication:

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

Review Process:

This policy will be reviewed annually by the ABGS IB Committee and multiple stakeholders who represent a sample of the school community 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. Revised by Dr. Kellie Ramsey-2022.

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.