



Deerfield Beach High School International Baccalaureate Inclusion Policy

Revised September 2023

Statement of Philosophy

The community of Deerfield Beach High School strives to ensure that the supports are in place for all students that are a part of International Baccalaureate program.

Broward County Public Schools serve over 32,000 students with disabilities and offers a free and appropriate public education in compliance with the federally mandated law of IDEA. A continuum of services and programs are available to meet the individual needs of students eligible for special education and related services. The continuum of services may be provided in a variety of settings, which include general education classrooms, resource/support rooms, or the possibility of specialized days schools or hospital homebound. Eligible students are provided supports and/or services as per their Individual Education Plan (IEP) that are based on each child's unique needs, as related to their present levels of academic achievement and functional performance. Students who are not eligible for services under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) may be eligible for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act which provides accommodations for students who did not qualify under IDEA.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and Support Services Division staff provides professional learning opportunities and instructional programming to facilitate high quality instruction for students with disabilities.

The Inclusion Policy is designed and implemented to provide all school stakeholders with information about the arrangements available for candidates with special needs during their preparation of work for assessment available in their written examinations. Deerfield Beach High School's exceptional student education teachers comprise a cohesive team of professionals who work collaboratively and individually to address the unique learning needs of students who qualify for services. Our Inclusion Policy includes accommodating students who have access requirements for special needs students. According to the Handbook of Procedures for the Diploma Programme, 2015, IB believes that all candidates must be allowed to take their examinations under conditions that are as fair as possible. Where normal examination conditions and assessment procedures would put candidates at a disadvantage and prevent them from being able to demonstrate their skills and knowledge adequately and reasonable forms of accommodations may be authorized. At Deerfield Beach High School, we believe in

supporting all of our students, including those with special needs, so that conditions for the program are as fair and equitable as possible.

Meeting Needs Within the Classroom

The IB Coordinator, ESE Specialist, and 504 Liaison continually identify any students that fall under the IDEA law and other federal law pertaining to special needs students that may require assistance. The IB Coordinator will then meet with the students, parents, and/or teachers to discuss the necessary accommodations. The teachers work with the student, parents, and the ESE support staff in coming up with the best way for the student's needs to be met in their individual classrooms and to decide on the best routes of communication for monitoring the student's progress. Teachers are expected to inform the IB Coordinator if problems or concerns arise.

Meeting Needs with IB Assessments

The International Baccalaureate Office/Coordinator will work in conjunction with both the ESE Specialist and 504 Liaison using the appropriate forms and providing the necessary documentation of the inclusive education/special needs of students requiring accommodations such as extended time on examination papers. Once the IB Coordinator learns of the decision of the IB, the student, parents, and teachers involved will be informed.

Learning Diversity and Inclusion

In IB World Schools, all students in the IB programmes should have meaningful and equitable access to the curriculum. IB programme principles and practices call for schools to be organized in ways that value student diversity and respect individual differences. Valuing diversity and differences is a key aspect of becoming more internationally minded and is an important goal of all IB programmes.

Among educators, the ongoing process that increases access and engagement of all learners in learning has become known as *inclusion*. Inclusive education involves responding positively to each student's unique learning profile, including students with diverse learning needs. A key indicator of inclusion in schools is a shift from specialist teachers being solely responsible for students with learning differences to collaborative planning by all teachers who are part of a student's education along the learning continuum.

Inclusive Assessment Arrangements (A7.1.1 Policy)

The IB believes that all candidates must be allowed to take their examinations under conditions that are as fair as possible. Where standard examination conditions and assessment procedures would put candidates at a disadvantage and prevent them from being able to demonstrate their skills and knowledge adequately, reasonable forms of access arrangements may be authorized. Candidates eligible for inclusive assessment arrangements are those with

individual needs such as:

- learning disabilities
- specific learning difficulties
- communication and speech difficulties
- autism spectrum disorders
- social, emotional and behaviour challenges
- multiple disabilities and/or physical, sensory, medical or mental health issues.

Any reasonable adjustments for a particular candidate pertaining to his or her unique needs will be considered.

Handbook of Procedures for the Diploma Programme, IBO, 2015.

***The current Inclusion Policy has been based on Broward Schools Policies and IBO Policies regarding special needs students.**

****The IB Program of Deerfield Beach High School meets all state and federal requirements according to the following:**

- **IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Act**
- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**
- **ADA – American with Disabilities Act**
- **Assistive Technology Act**

Policy Distribution & Review

All Deerfield Beach High School IB policies are posted on the Deerfield beach High School website available for download and easy printing format.

All Deerfield Beach IB policies are reviewed annually and are subject to change.

References and Resources

Handbook of Procedures for the Diploma Program, IBO, 2015.

