

Special Educational Needs Policy

Philosophy: The faculty and staff of Plantation High School strive to build a community that is supportive of all students who choose to participate in the IB.

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 IDEA. A continuum of services and programs are available to meet the individual needs of students eligible for special education and related services, ages 3 through 22. This continuum of services may be provided in a variety of settings, which include general education classrooms, resource rooms, specialized day schools, and 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 Individuals 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.

PHS special educators comprise a cohesive team of professionals who work collaboratively and individually to address the unique learning needs of students who qualify for services. To that end, we accommodate students who have assessment access requirements and/or learning support requirements (special needs). "The 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, reasonable forms of accommodation may be authorized" (Handbook of Procedures for the Diploma Programme 2013 77). 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:

At the beginning of the school year the IB Coordinator and ESE Specialist identify any students that that fall under the IDEA umbrella and will need assistance. The IB Coordinator then meets with the student, parents, and/or teachers to discuss the necessary accommodations. The teachers work with the student, parents and 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 IBO is notified 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.

*Broward Schools Policies and IBO Policies were used in constructing this document.