

# **Sage International School Primary Years Programme Special Education Needs Policy**

Special education at Sage is designed to give all learners equal access to a rigorous curriculum aligned to the standards, practices and content expectations of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Idaho State Department of Education standards. Additionally, the special education program complies with State and Federal laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including providing students a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. A continuum of services is available for students identified as having a disability as defined by criteria established by the Idaho Department of Education and who demonstrate a need for support services or accommodations through an Individualized Education Plan or 504 Plan. Special services provided under an English Learning Plan are also available for students identified as English Language Learners.

Sage's educational program supports students in the following ways:

*Inclusion strategies promote internationally minded students through the IB Learner Profile:*

- Students understand the IB Learner Profile and IB Attitudes
- Students who “act IB” do so in part by including students with special needs in all daily activities

*Support Mechanisms and Service Models*

- Students with disabilities who receive special education services have individualized goals to help them make progress in the general education curriculum, including the PYP.
- Students with disabilities are served in the least restrictive environment, as determined by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team or 504 Plan team.
- Students who are identified as English Language Learners have individualized goals and accommodations specific to their needs, as determined by the student's English Learning Plan (ELP) team.
- Sage employs specially trained staff to support students with unique needs.
  - Students with disabilities, or students who are English Language Learners, who participate in the general education classroom for all or part of the day may receive specialized assistance or support from the classroom teacher, special education teacher, English Language Learner teacher, or a teaching assistant.
- Sage offers resource room services to support students with unique needs.
  - Students with disabilities who require specially designed instruction may receive direct individual or small group instruction services outside the general education classroom.
- Sage offers speech and language therapy services to qualifying students through special education and through speech club, which identifies students who qualify for support through universal screenings, individual screenings, or teacher referral.

- Sage offers related services to qualifying students with disabilities who receive special education support. Related services include occupational therapy.
- Sage implements Response to Intervention/Multi-Tiered Systems of Support to provide academic and behavioral supports for any student who is not making adequate progress.

#### *Accommodations, Modifications and Special Arrangements for Instruction and for Internal and External Assessments*

- Accommodations and modifications as determined by the student's IEP team will be provided so that students have access to the general education classroom and curriculum and can demonstrate their knowledge and mastery of skills taught.
- All Sage teachers are responsible for implementing classroom accommodations as determined by a student's IEP team, 504 Plan team, or ELP team; and/or curricular modifications as determined by a student's IEP team, to meet the needs of individual students.
- Sage follows accommodations on internal and external assessments as outlined in a student's IEP, 504 Plan or ELP, based on guidelines set forth in applicable federal law and by the Idaho Department of Education.

#### *Differentiation and Collaboration*

- Sage general education and special education teachers, special education support staff, and service providers work together to identify and support student needs.
- General education and special education teachers adapt and modify curriculum, instructional methods, and assessment to meet individual student needs.
- Sage teachers and staff seek parental input and viewpoints in collaborating to meet the needs of students with special educational needs.
- A student's IEP team or 504 Plan team is constituted according to applicable federal and state law and guidelines, and includes the student where appropriate. The parent or guardian, or adult student, is an essential member of the IEP or 504 Plan team.