



Inclusion/Learning Support Policy for the IB MYP at AYA

Background & Introduction

The American Youth Academy (AYA) is an independent, private school which serves Pre-K2 to 12 grade students from a diverse socio-economic background. As such, the school's mission is to provide academic excellence in a safe, nurturing, and Islamic environment for the purpose of guiding students to become successful, 21st century global citizens. AYA relies on tuition income, donations and sponsorships to cover its operational expenses, programs and projects.

In order to fully meet the needs of diverse learner, a system must be in place which includes:

- Periodic and systematic assessment of the students' abilities and needs by members of AYA's administrative staff and by outside professionals: Licensed psychologists and/or therapists; pediatricians; etc.
- Periodic and systematic team meetings with everyone involved in providing an education or accommodations for these students. This team may include, but may not necessarily be limited to: A social counselor, academic advisor, IB coordinator, department leads, teacher leads, and members of the department of teaching and learning.
- Accurate and timely documentation and paperwork must be kept and shared as needed among all members of the team.

Philosophy

AYA's stakeholders believe that:

- A student's education does not revolve only around academics. In addition to academic growth, AYA focuses on developing a student's physical, social and moral well-being with equal weight placed on each of these components.
- Every student at AYA has the right to receive the best possible education and to have his/her needs met to the fullest and most positive extent.
- AYA will not accept any student into its programs if administrators determine that his/her needs will not be met to the most positive extent.
- Consistent, timely, and open communication must exist between and among all stakeholders to ensure optimal academic and social results for each special needs student.

Goals of Inclusion

AYA's goal is to:

- offer each individual student at AYA the best education possible
- meet the academic, physical, social, and moral needs of each student
- provide the accommodations needed for diverse learners at AYA to ensure their success in all areas both in the classroom, during assessments, and throughout the campus.

General Inclusion Supports Offered to/for AYA Students, who are in need of accommodations are:

- Preferential seating in the classroom to achieve optimal concentration
- Extended time to complete class assignments and homework
- Use of laptops in class to support virtual learning
- Special computer software to assist in filling gaps in particular skills
- Assistance in carrying books and moving from one class to another (student buddy system)
- Use of elevator to get from ground floor classes to classes, labs and libraries on higher floors
- Extra assistance during and after school
- Individual and/or group counseling sessions during the school day are offered as needed: Speech, social/emotional counseling
- Alternate forms of assessment to allow students to demonstrate mastery and understanding

Assessment Accommodations Offered to/for Diverse Learners at AYA

- Extended time for testing
- Testing Separately
- Oral Testing
- Modified Question Types
- Use of Computer or iPad to Type Responses

Definition of Accommodation

An accommodation is a legally mandated modification or service that gives a student with a disability an equal opportunity to benefit from the educational process. It may be useful to think of accommodations as adjustments to how things are normally done. From one perspective, accommodations can be grouped into the following categories:

- Changes to a classroom environment or task that permit a student with a disability to participate in the educational process,
- Removal of architectural barriers,
- Modifications to policies, practices or procedures,
- Provision of auxiliary aids and services, and
- Other adaptations or modifications that enable a student to enjoy the benefits and privileges of the college's program, services and activities.

Accommodations do not lower academic standards or compromise the integrity of an academic program. Academic, conduct and technical standards will always be maintained. Accommodations are provided at no cost for eligible students.

Reflection & Revision of AYA's Special Needs Policy

As with any policy, AYA's Special Needs Policy must be reviewed and analyzed on an annual basis by a committee of teachers and administrators to determine if any changes are needed. This analysis will be based on implementation of current policy, assessment of student and teacher success, demographics of the school, and other variables which may influence the policy's success.

If changes are found to be warranted/needed, they will be made and implemented and again reviewed after a one-year cycle.