

# HOUSTON

## Houston MSTC Inclusion Policy

### Introduction

The Middle Year Programme (MYP) is all-inclusive and learning will be modified for students of all levels in the individual classrooms. Houston Independent School District (HISD) believes in inclusion. General, gifted and talented and special education teachers are given training and support to ensure students can and do learn at their individual levels.

### Special Education and 504 Education

All teachers will adhere to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students receiving services under Special Education and/or 504 Education Plans.

The term IEP means a written statement for each child with a disability that is developed, reviewed and revised in accordance with the Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee framework. The ARD committee must review the child's IEP periodically, but not less frequently than annually, to determine whether the annual goals are being achieved. The ARD committee must determine the child's placement at least annually.

### Models and Services Available

#### Case Manager Assistance

A variety of services are offered to special education students. Each student is assigned a Special Education Case Manager. These professionals have multifaceted roles with a focus on co-teaching, in-class support and collaborating with their students' general education teachers. Case managers are responsible for conducting annual ARDs, developing new IEPs, and monitoring student progress.

#### Skills for Learning and Living Class

Students identified by the ARD committee with disabilities that affect their cognitive ability are given assistance, so they can learn in functional environments. Students are taught skills necessary for daily living. Students are actively engaged in the community. Students spend over 50% of the day in specialized classes and participate with peers during curricular and extracurricular activities. Students are taught using the unique IB framework to support their leveled-multidisciplinary curriculum.

#### Behavior Support Class (BSC)

The purpose of BSC is to provide a self-contained class in which students with behavior disorders can work individually on academic and behavioral goals determined by the Admission Referral Dismissal (ARD) Committee in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students referred to BSC must manifest behavior problems that are of such magnitude that less



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restrictive instructional options cannot accommodate that student's special behavioral needs. A Special Education teacher trained to work with behavioral/emotional problems and an instructional aide are assigned to each BSC. This program is highly structured with supervision throughout the instructional day.

## Dyslexia Interventions

The Houston Independent School District is committed to providing students identified with dyslexia with instruction that is individualized, intensive, and includes phonetic methods and a variety of writing and spelling components as recommended in the Texas Education Agency's Dyslexia Handbook.

## Gifted and Talented

All HISD Gifted and Talented (G/T) students are served in classes with teachers who have completed the state- and district-required G/T trainings. Campuses must ensure G/T students have opportunities to work together as a group, work with other students, and work independently during the school day throughout the entire school year.

## IB Policy Review

The IB policies will be reviewed by the Leadership team and a voluntary team of teachers annually.

## References

- Houston Independent School District. (2004). Behavior Support Program. Retrieved from [https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/8269/PE\\_SpecialED/2004\\_05\\_SpEdSupport.pdf](https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/8269/PE_SpecialED/2004_05_SpEdSupport.pdf)
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