



Riverdale High School

International Baccalaureate Program

Special Educational Needs Policy

Philosophy

Riverdale High School (RHS) supports the learning of all students by appropriately addressing the unique learning needs of students with special needs. The Riverdale High School Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department works with students and their families to identify minor adjustments that can be made by the teachers, students, families, and support staff to allow the student access to all levels of the general education curriculum of the school, including the IB Diploma Program. It is the philosophy of Riverdale High School that providing students with open access to our entire curriculum fosters academic success in the school's college preparatory environment and leads to the development of self-esteem and self-advocacy skills in the student.

IB Special Educational Needs Policy

The International Baccalaureate Organization defines a special need as “any permanent or temporary diagnosed need that could put a candidate at a disadvantage and prevent him or her from being able to demonstrate skills and knowledge adequately.”

Identification

Students with special educational needs are encouraged to apply for IB courses and are accepted, provided they meet the admission criteria established by School District of Lee County and the prerequisite criteria identified for each course. The ESE Department informs the RHS staff of any students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in place at the school. Teachers of IB students who have an IEP are given a copy of those plans and are required to make the adjustments listed therein. The IB Coordinator works together with the IB faculty to ensure that all students enrolled in IB courses have full access to the curriculum and are able to demonstrate mastery of the course content.

Classroom Instruction

Riverdale High School faculty employ inclusive teaching techniques and design learning experiences that allow all students, including those who have special educational needs, to meet the rigorous standards of the IB Diploma Program. Students are provided with opportunities to achieve these goals by participating in carefully constructed differentiated teaching strategies designed to maximize students' potential and also allow the student to demonstrate learning in different ways.

Parent Expectations and Communication

Parents of IB students are encouraged to share information regarding any special educational needs on behalf of their child. The expectation of collaboration between parent and RHS staff regarding special educational needs is communicated to parents and students in the *School District of Lee County Parent Guide and Code of Conduct*, which is distributed to all students and parents at the beginning of every school year. This information is also available on the School District of Lee County's website.

IB Assessment and Special Educational Needs

Riverdale High School, in accordance with IB policy, "believes that all students should be allowed to demonstrate their ability under assessment conditions that are as fair as possible. Where standard assessment conditions could put a student with special educational needs at a disadvantage by preventing him or her from demonstrating his or her level of skill and knowledge attainment, special arrangements may be authorized." Such arrangements follow the principles and guidelines of the IB Diploma Program as set forth in the IB document entitled "Candidates with Special Assessment Needs" (IBO, May 2009). The IB Coordinator will inform the IBO using the appropriate procedures and providing the necessary documentation of the special needs of students requiring assessment adjustments. Once the IB Coordinator learns of the decision of the IB, the student, parents, and teachers involved will be informed.

Implementation / Review / Revision

Special Educational Needs Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or more often if a need for review and/or revision arises. A policy committee made up of the IB Coordinator, IB Faculty, parent(s), student(s) and a representative from administration, will be responsible for the implementation, review and revision of the policy.