



Neelsville Middle School

And the Watkins Mill Cluster Special Educational Needs Policy



At the Watkins Mill Cluster Schools (WMCS), the shared belief is that a high-quality education is the fundamental right of every child. Accordingly, all WMHS students are encouraged to participate in IB programs and courses. All children will receive the respect, encouragement, and opportunities they need to build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be successful, contributing members of a global society.

In conjunction with Montgomery County Public Schools, the Watkins Mill Cluster Schools (WMCS) are committed to providing free appropriate public education to all students. Special education is a broad term describing the education of students who have intellectual, behavioral, or emotional disabilities. Specially designed instruction is provided at no cost to parents to meet the unique needs of each child with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a formal Section 504 Plan.

The Special Education Departments at WMCS services students who have an IEP. Each IEP is designed to meet the individual needs of the student, provide access to the general and IB curriculum, and meet grade-level standards established by the state of Maryland. All special education students who are enrolled in the MYP, IB Diploma Program, IB Career-Related Program, as well as IB Course students, are afforded the same levels of support as all special education students attending WMCS. Counseling Services will provide support services for students with 504 plans. All IEPs and 504 plans at the WMCS maintain compliance with guidelines established by Federal Law and are reviewed and updated annually according to these mandates.

The following are illustrative examples of services that students may access depending on their IEP/504 Plan:
Adapted instructional materials and/or presentation (large print, audio assistance, etc.)

Modified assessments

Additional support for study skills, social skills, or academic achievement through the Special Education Academic Center and Resource Classes

Transition goals and related services to ensure that students are equipped for higher education and employment opportunities, as well as other types of community engagement post-high school

Special Education and 504 services are provided through direct classroom instruction, small group pull-out, consultation and collaboration with regular education teachers, speech therapy (direct and indirect), and consultation with the school psychologist and guidance counselors. Each student needing special services is assigned a case manager who ensures that the student's IEP is understood and followed by all classroom teachers. The case manager is also responsible for following all of the necessary steps in creating, implementing, and revising a student's IEP/504 so that the document continues to outline appropriate goals, services, and accommodations for the student, ensuring access to the general education and IB curriculum in the least restrictive environment.

Special Education and 504 plan students at the WMCS are provided equal access to the MYP, IB Diploma (and Career Related) Program(s). Opportunities to engage in all IB subject areas are extended to all students. The MYP/IBDP/CP Coordinator, student case managers, and classroom teachers will work together to ensure the appropriate accommodations to support special education students are in place in all IB classes. The MYP/IBDP/CP

Coordinator will ensure that application for any assessment accommodation is made to IBO according to IBO's guidelines. Special Education Case Managers, the Special Education Resource Teacher, and Counseling staff will assist the MYP/DP/CP coordinator in ensuring the proper selection of student support via the IBIS choices to establish the adequate level of examination accommodations. All assessment accommodations will be provided to students according to the expressed allowances given to us for each student from the Inclusion office in Cardiff.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed and revised annually by the faculty and school Leadership team; student and parent voices will be used in this process.

Policy Distribution

Policy distribution:

All candidates upon enrollment in the MYP/DP/CP via ToK or PPS

All course candidates upon enrollment in the DP level course

Parents/Guardians of all candidates upon enrollment in the DP/CP or a DP-level course.

Annually to all staff

Posted on the school website