

## **Special Education and Inclusion Policies and the IB MYP Continuum**

*“Inclusion is an organizational paradigm that involves change. It is an unending process of increasing learning and participation for ALL students”*

*from Meeting Student Learning Diversity in the IB Classroom*

Since its Founding in 1998 the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School 26 has embraced full inclusion of all at risk and special needs students. The school’s special needs policy is rooted in the work of pioneers of the inclusion philosophy such as Margaret Wang, author of the Adaptive Learning Environments Model, or ALEM. School 26 worked closely early on with Temple University in the adoption of this particular inclusion design and continues to practice the principle that all students benefit from an environment that nurtures learning in all of its members.

Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy adheres to all federal, state, and district guidelines related to special education, inclusion, and special needs. We recognize that every student is unique and that there are times when students may require additional support and/or modification of instruction to allow that child to thrive in an inclusion setting. The Child Study Team, along with parents and faculty, identifies and evaluates students in need of services. If student need is found then the Child Study Team along with the classroom teacher and parents develop the appropriate IEP's and 504's, these are subject to real time and periodic review and revision that closely aligns with the IBO's philosophy of inclusion and support for all learners.

Support for special needs is provided by a range of certified personnel including, in class support specialists, interventionists, and counselors (private and group), as well as physical and speech therapists provided by the district.

If and when the situation arises that a child is unable to function in the mainstream classroom then accommodations are made to ensure that that child remains a part of the learning community in every other way possible. This method is not only embraced philosophically by the school but is mandated by the state under the terms “least restrictive environment”. School 26 seeks in every way to produce an environment for every child that goes beyond “least restrictive” to actively nurturing and sustaining.