

# Paso Verde Inclusion Policy

## Philosophy

The Paso Verde Inclusion Policy supports our core belief that “Every student can learn and succeed.” Scholars at Paso Verde have a range of abilities, skills, backgrounds and interests, and we believe that diversity, including scholars with exceptional needs, is a strength and fosters an internationally-minded school community. It is our goal for all students to become independent, life-long learners who can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Scholars with exceptional needs can reach their full potential with the guided care and support by the PVS staff and community.

## Objectives

Teachers and staff must actively support all students by committing to the following:

- Ensuring that scholars with exceptional needs have maximum access to the whole curriculum and providing equal opportunities for all
- Maintaining high expectations and providing support to all scholars according to individualized needs
- Implementing differentiated instructional methodologies and assessments as needed by all learners
- Encouraging scholars to take an active role in monitoring and reflecting on their own learning
- Working collaboratively with fellow staff members to implement the policy effectively and meet the needs of all scholars
- Developing and monitoring a classroom and school-wide culture that is inclusive and supportive of the development of learner profile traits in all school environments.

## Federal, State, and Local Requirements

In order to effectively meet the needs of all scholars, we adhere to the policies and practices set forth by federal, state, and local authorities, including:

- Implementing the accommodations and modifications specified in the Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 plans
- Providing differentiation, accommodations, and/or modifications for scholars
- Regularly reviewing and revising IEPs and 504s with all stakeholders

The following interventions will be used to support any scholar:

- Scholars with specific learning needs will receive additional intervention from the classroom teacher
- Teachers will provide enrichment or extension activities as appropriate
- Teachers will differentiate instruction to allow scholars to access the curriculum or deepen their understanding or skills



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- Teachers will develop various methods of assessment to allow scholars various opportunities to demonstrate their learning
- Families will work with scholars and staff to personalize their educational experiences

In the case of a scholar with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or 504, the scholar shall be entitled to all accommodations during instruction and assessment to which she/he is legally entitled.

### **Extended Absences**

If a scholar has a temporary special need due to illness, injury, etc., it is the responsibility of the scholar and parent to inform the school administration in a timely manner. Supporting documentation may be required, and accommodations will be made as needed in accordance with the school and its policies. Teachers will provide the appropriate accommodations in accordance with the scholar's contract.

### **Social Inclusion**

Teachers will be vigilant to ensure that the school environment is a safe place socially for all scholars regardless of family background, race, gender/sexual orientation, mental status, religious beliefs, or any other type of lifestyle. Teachers and staff will take actions to create a safe, inclusive environment for all scholars by modeling supportive behavior, stopping ostracism in its tracks, and working with the administrative team to deal with issues of prejudice and discrimination.

### **Professional Development**

With the core belief that IB PYP and MYP are holistic programs designed to meet the needs of all learners, teachers will receive professional development and resources to appropriately meet the needs of all learners in their classrooms.

### **Language and Assessment Policy Connections**

We are committed to a philosophy of learning and teaching that embraces the diverse needs of our community. Our Language and Assessment policies both outline in detail how our community works collaboratively to include, value, support, and engage all learners with language and through gathering evidence of learning that is authentic and meaningful to each scholar. Please see the policies linked below:

- [PVS Language Policy](#)
- [PVS Assessment Policy](#)

