



Monterey High School Special Education Policy

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program

As an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) candidate school, we recognize and respect that our students come from a variety of backgrounds, cultures, and life experiences. Monterey High School's (MHS) diverse student backgrounds contribute to our school community and inspire teachers and students to grow as caring and open-minded individuals.

Philosophy

- MHS believes that every child has the right to an equitable, free, and appropriate education, including the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. All MHS students have the opportunity to receive educational resources, differentiated instruction, guidance, and accommodations to provide opportunities to achieve their highest potential. MHS provides students with the opportunity to achieve academic success as they move through all aspects of the school community, including extra curricular activities and academic experiences along the IB continuum.
- MHS recognizes that all students have different educational needs and learning modalities that require varying teaching approaches and learning experiences. MHS' vision states that "every student has access to a challenging and relevant education; where students, educators, and families work together to create a better and more peaceful world through intellectual and intercultural understanding and respect."
- MHS believes in meeting the special educational needs of students through the philosophy of inclusivity and providing all students with the least restrictive learning environment.

Students Displaying Discrepancies in Grade Appropriate Learning

- Students displaying discrepancies in grade-appropriate learning after unsuccessful teacher-developed classroom-level interventions, cross-curricular support systems, and administrative support will be recommended for a Student Support Team (SST) meeting, after complying with site-specific processes for initial assessment. Once a student is identified as a student potentially in need of supplemental services, MHS staff completes referral forms outlining the student's academic and behavioral challenges, returns information to the counseling department, which collaborates with the school's psychologist to schedule an evaluation and teacher/family meetings.
- Collected academic work samples are reviewed during the SST process for further evaluations. The process can last several weeks and may extend into the implementation



phase of additional strategies and accommodations. If the interventions and strategies prove unsuccessful, MHS may refer the student's case to a specialist for consultation.

Students with Disabilities

Overview

- MHS complies with all applicable state and federal laws in serving students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504), The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Improvement Act (IDEIA)
- MHS is responsible for its compliance with Section 504 and the ADA. MHS facilities must be accessible for all students with disabilities.

Services for Students Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

- MHS recognizes its legal responsibility to ensure that all students have equitable access to Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). No person, on the basis of disability, will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any MHS program. Any student who has an identified disability that substantially limits a major life activity, not limited to learning, may be eligible for accommodations per the Section 504 Accommodation Rehabilitation Act.

Services for Students Under the IDEIA

- MHS complies with all applicable state and federal laws for special education. MHS also complies with applicable Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) policies on special education.
- As the LEA for special education purposes, MPUSD offers a full continuum of special education instruction and related services to ensure that all special education students receive FAPE.
- Special Education placements and related services available at MHS may include general education inclusion, speech and language therapy, and other related services.
- Parents/guardians and MHS staff, via the Student Support team process, may refer students to MPUSD Special Education Services for a consultation.
 - MPUSD maintains responsibility for determining processes, timelines for placement determination, and initiation and provision of services once a request for consultation is submitted.



Confidentiality

- All information acquired as a result of this policy, including information regarding the special educational needs of individual students and the programs and services provided to individual students shall be kept secure and handled as confidential by MHS.
- MHS shall ensure that educators given access to this information have signed a confidentiality agreement.
- MHS shall use confidential information for the sole purpose of ensuring appropriate programs and services to meet the special educational needs of students.
- Under no circumstances does MHS release information to parties not involved in the process of identifying special educational needs, planning, and/or delivering programs and services within the overall context of teaching and learning at MHS. Nor will anyone involved be permitted to discuss the information process.

Adoption and renewal

- This policy was written by the Director I of Student Support Services, Special Education Coordinator, Special Education Head of Department for MHS, IB Coordinator, reviewed by the entire academic staff, and adopted by the MHS administration
- This policy shall be reviewed each September to determine its ongoing effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be assessed at any other time deemed necessary by the MHS administration or Board of Education.

District Policy Statement

Monterey Peninsula Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, disability, genetic information, or any other reason prohibited by applicable laws, in its programs, services, activities, or employment practices. Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of disability should be directed to Mr. Zev Axelrod or Ms. Katie Rivera, krivera@mpusd.k12.ca.us, MPUSD Director of Student Support Services. Direct all other inquiries related to discrimination to the Executive Director of Human Resources at (831) 645-1272.