

Agassiz Elementary School International Baccalaureate\*  
Primary Years and Middle Years Programme  
Diverse Learner Policy

Section 1: Introduction

International Baccalaureate Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate (IB) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Agassiz Mission Statement

*Our Mission*

Our promise is to provide a nurturing and rigorous learning environment. We will instill within our students a love of learning by identifying their positive distinctions through academics, the arts and athletics. We empower students to be responsible, contributing members of an international community.

*Our Vision*

As a result, Agassiz students strive to be life-long learners who are persistent problem solvers, are inquisitive about the world, have a strong sense of self, and articulate their thoughts, feelings, and ideas through ongoing reflection.

Agassiz students strive to be empathetic by understanding different perspectives while being mindful of their unique viewpoint.

Agassiz students strive to be caring and principled, and to possess a foundation of knowledge that enables them to build a more peaceful world.

\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

## Section 2: Diverse Learner Supports at Agassiz Elementary School

Agassiz Elementary is a Chicago Public School that serves students from Pre-Kindergarten (PK) through 8th grade. We are an authorized IB World School that offers both the International Baccalaureate Primary Years (PYP) in Pre-K- 5th grade and Middle Years Programme (MYP) in 6th-8th grade to students who are accepted and enrolled. We are also a Fine and Performing Arts Magnet Cluster school and admit students from the neighborhood, as well as through our annual lottery. As defined by the Chicago Public Schools, Magnet Cluster schools are specialized neighborhood schools that focus their curriculum on areas such as: Fine and Performing Arts, World Language, and Technology. A Magnet Cluster school has a neighborhood attendance boundary and accepts students who live within that boundary. Students who live outside of the neighborhood attendance boundary must participate in the [GoCPS](#) application and selection process in order to be considered for acceptance.

At Agassiz Elementary, the PYP and MYP are open to all PK through 8th grade students. The programmes are designed to be inclusive of all students, regardless of interest and ability. In all IB programmes, teaching is tailored to remove barriers to learning and values diversity. It affirms students' identities, and aims to create learning opportunities that enable every student to develop and pursue their personal goals. (What is an IB education? 2013:6) Throughout their IB journey, students receive differentiated instruction and support from their classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, specialists (Arts, Music, PE, Library, Language), and from our clinicians, as needed or determined by a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.

Students are supported through the use of best practices to ensure equitable access to their education. The supports may include, but are not limited to:

- Classrooms with a co-teaching model (General Education and Special Education Teachers)
- Frequent check-ins with teacher
- Small group instruction
- Extended time on assignments and assessments
- Visual cues
- Opportunities to demonstrate learning in a variety of ways

## Section 3: Diverse Learners Resources

- [Agassiz Elementary School Website](#)
- [GoCPS](#)
- [The Office of Diverse Learners Support and Services](#)
- [Understanding Special Education](#)
- [Understood](#)
- [About the IB](#)
- [What is an IB Education?](#)
- [The IB Primary Years Programme](#)
- [The IB Middle Years Programme](#)

## Section 4: Overview of the Provision of Services for Students with Disabilities in Chicago Public Schools

### Overview of the Provision of Services for Students with Disabilities

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA), the federal regulations, and Illinois statutes and regulations, all students with disabilities ages 3 through 21 have a right to receive a *free appropriate public education (FAPE)* in the *least restrictive environment (LRE)*.

These legal requirements provide procedural safeguards regarding the identification, evaluation, and placement of students with disabilities. Essential to these procedural safeguards is the involvement of parents. The term "parent" means one or both of a student's parents (natural or adoptive); the student's legal guardian; a foster parent, the student's surrogate parent appointed by ISBE, or an individual acting in place of a natural or adoptive parent, including grandparents, stepparents or other relative, with whom the child lives or an individual legally responsible for the child's welfare. It may be presumed that a student's parent has the authority to act for the student unless a school official has been advised that the parent does not have the authority under applicable laws governing such matters as guardianship, separation and divorce.

The IDEA is a statute that authorizes funds to states and public school systems, such as Chicago Public Schools (CPS), under certain conditions. To receive these funds, school systems must ensure they will comply with specific mandates regarding the education of students with disabilities.

23 Illinois Administrative Code 226 The ISBE has promulgated rules to implement Article 14 of the School Code of Illinois, which applies to the education of students with disabilities. These rules provide further specificity regarding requirements for the identification, evaluation, programming, placement, and provision of procedural safeguards. In addition, rules are provided for the administration of special education, design of special education programs (including class size), home or hospital programs, state operated or private programs, special education personnel, transportation and residential care facilities.

#### Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)

The purpose of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is to (1) eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity provided by schools districts and other educational providers that receive federal financial assistance, and (2) ensure that students who are Section 504 eligible have educational opportunities equivalent to those of their nondisabled peers. Unlike the IDEA, Section 504 does not limit coverage to certain categories of disabilities and no categorical labels are necessary. Instead, a student with a disability under Section 504 is defined as one who (1) has a physical or mental health impairment that substantially limits a major life activity; or (2) has a record of such an impairment; or (3) is regarded as having such an impairment. 29 U.S.C. §794; 34 C.F.R. § 104, *et seq.*

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Students with disabilities are also protected under the ADA. The educational requirements under the ADA for students with disabilities are not significantly different than under Section 504.

Student Opportunities All students with disabilities are eligible to apply to Agassiz Elementary Primary Years program(s). Appropriate services within these programs will be provided to meet the student's individual needs as delineated on the Individualized Education Program.

#### Addendum

Chicago Public Schools prohibits schools from creating individual IB Diverse Learner Policies. Schools are asked to submit this document instead.

For more information, please use the link below:

[CPS Special Education Process](#)