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 **IB Special Needs Policy**

**Ridgeview High School**

 **International Baccalaureate Program**

**Special Needs Policy**

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Ridgeview High School is a magnet for special needs students in our district. We serve students who represent our community throughout the county, from those who have more severe academic challenges through the high performing students in the IB Diploma Program. It is our policy to treat **all** students with respect and dignity, giving them all equal opportunities to be successful. We adhere to the Individual Education Plan for each special needs student. All of our teachers *differentiate* instruction to accommodate the student’s learning needs.

Ridgeview High School adheres to the Four Principles of Good Practice established by IB. *Building self-esteem* in **all** of our students, regardless of background, special circumstances, and special needs, is of paramount importance to the Ridgeview High School Faculty. Our teachers value the IB Learner profile and treat all students with open-mindedness and with caring hearts. We take pride in *affirming* our students and helping them realize their potential. We also *value prior knowledge* and understand the importance of developing deeper learning in our students. Scaffolding is a technique that all teachers in our school and school district use to assist learners in understanding complex concepts. Teachers often use visual aids and demonstrations to explain the lesson. Ridgeview High School *IB teachers require extensive reading to extend learning* for all of our students. Students who have Individual Education Plans that require the use of assistive technology will have these materials supplied to them by the Special Education Office in our school district. Teachers use prescribed approaches to teaching and learning in a reflective manner in order to enhance student academic and social success.

The IB Coordinator and teachers meet with the students and parents of special needs students to discuss the type of instruction that will most benefit the student, following state and federal guidelines to ensure that this student is afforded every opportunity to be successful in the IB program. Annual meetings are required for us to discuss each student but often we meet more than once to ensure the success of each student. Should the student need additional time on IB exams, the IB Coordinator will submit the appropriate paperwork to the IB office to enable this student to receive his/her accommodations.