

# Highroad Academy Special Education Policy

## A. Rationale

Highroad Academy is a Christian community committed to students with special needs. We believe each child has value as they are created in God's image, with their own unique purpose. We strive to meet students where they are, help them achieve independence, resilience, and bring to fullness their God given gifts; equipping them to achieve their full potential.

With future vision in mind we partner with parents to provide a collaborative approach to support each student's education, and bring out their maximum potential. Our approach allows us to address each child's diversity through addressing their distinctive needs (academic, emotional/social, sensory, speech, gross & fine motor skills, etc.).

Special education programs and services enable students with special needs to have equitable access to learning and opportunities to pursue and achieve the goals of their educational programs.

This policy has been designed in accordance to the Ministry of Education's standards and protocols.

## B. Definitions:

**Inclusion:** describes the principle that all students with special needs are entitled to equitable access to learning, achievement and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of their education. The practice of inclusion is not necessarily synonymous with integration and goes beyond placement to include meaningful participation and the promotion of interaction with others.

Integration: is one of the major strategies used to achieve inclusion, with integration students with special needs are included in educational settings with their peers who do not have special needs, and provided with the necessary accommodations determined on

an individual basis, to enable them to be successful there. The principle of “placement in the most enabling environment” applies when decisions are made about the extent to which an individual student is placed in regular classrooms or assigned to an alternate placement.

## **C. Protocols:**

### **1. Admissions and Placement**

- Students with special needs may be admitted into Highroad Academy
- Prospective students with special needs will be evaluated by a team that consists of administrative staff and the special needs coordinator.
- Admission may be denied if the type of need is judged to be outside of the abilities of the school to render an appropriate education.
- The number of students that have special needs will be determined by a committee consisting of the Principal, SN Coordinator & Department Head. Admissions into the school requires agreement of the three committee members. Each student will be considered on a case by case basis to ensure that meaningful programs & services are delivered to all students. Individual classroom demographics are taken into consideration when determining if adequate support can be given to an additional student. Any exceptions will be handled through the appeals process of Highroad Academy.
- The SN Coordinator will coordinate Education assistants, outside consultants and available resources to help the student receive appropriate services. Assignment of Education Assistants for Special Needs Students will be determined by a committee consisting of the Principal, SN Coordinator, and Department Head.

### **2. Services**

- An IEP will be created for each student with Special Needs and will be used to give guidance to the classroom teacher in creating an appropriate academic experience.
- IEPs are reviewed at least twice each school year, and where necessary, is revised or cancelled.
- Services may include:
  - Early intervention programs
  - Curricular support
  - Adaptations and modifications
  - Developmentally appropriate programs
  - Professional resources such as occupational therapy, speech language services etc.
  - Educational Assistant support
  - Access to support from Provincial Resource Programs
  - Parental collaboration through school based team
- Consistent with this policy is an effort (within financial feasibility) to make our facilities accessible for students with special needs.

### 3. Special Education Grant

All funding received in the Special Education Grant will be tracked to insure appropriate expenditure for that designated student.

Policy Developer: Stuart Morris/Glenda Clark

Policy History	
Developed:	June 2008

Revised and updated:	January 2018
Revised and updated:	