



# Lowell International Elementary School

## Inclusion Policy

### MISSION

The mission at Lowell Elementary School is to develop globally minded learners of strong character, who are goal driven towards higher education.

### Philosophy

Lowell International Elementary School is a small school with a big heart. Inclusiveness is the core value that the school is built on. There are no entrance requirements and there is no application process to become a student at Lowell. All Milwaukee Public School students from Four- Year- Old Kindergarten through fifth grade are welcome. Lowell staff and students maintain a safe and respectful environment, where professional and personal growth has room to flourish. Family and community engagement is actively cultivated. The curriculum and atmosphere are rooted in inquiry- based learning and global awareness.

### Practice

The Lowell School community strongly believes that every Lowell student will become a globally minded person with strong character traits as developed through fidelity to the IB PYP Programme. All members of the community believe in and are committed to the reality that we will build an inclusive climate and culture for all students. All students can and will participate in the IB PYP Programme to the best of their ability.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Lowell International Elementary School is part of Milwaukee Public Schools. In Milwaukee Public Schools no person may be denied admission to or participation in the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, student service, recreational, or other program or activity, because of the person's sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, gender nonconformity, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law, including without limitation by enumeration: section 118.13, Wis. Stats.; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex); Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, and national origin); and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (disability).

## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

The Lowell International Elementary School Primary Years Programme recognizes that students come from a variety of diverse cultures and backgrounds with a wide range of academic, physical, social and behavioral needs. Lowell International Elementary School is committed to serving all students including those with the need for specialized education services.

This may include students with:

- Autism spectrum disorders

- Deaf and hard of hearing
- Developmental cognitive disabilities
- Developmental delays
- Emotional or behavioral disorders
- Other health disabilities
- Specific learning disabilities
- Speech or language impairments
- Traumatic brain injury

Furthermore, the staff of Lowell agrees that students with special education needs at our school are able to participate in the school's mission of empowering the whole child by nurturing the development of personal growth, strong character, academic excellence, and global vision. To ensure the Lowell International Elementary School's mission is accessible to all students:

- Lowell staff will provide individualized special education services to meet the unique needs of students with special needs.
- Special education may include modifications to teaching or instruction in the general education classroom, individual or small group specialized instruction or related services such as occupational, speech/language or physical therapy.
- Services are developed and provided in accordance with a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which details the necessary services and accommodations that are to be provided.

- Students with special needs are serviced in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), which grants increased parental participation and protection for students.
- 504 plans are issued for students who experience medical conditions that require certain temporary or long-term accommodations.

## COMMON PRACTICES OF THE IB CONTINUUM

The Lowell International Elementary School community aligns all educational practices to the IB Standards. Resources and support are allocated for and are in place to ensure that both students and teachers receive the required assistance to successfully implement the IB PYP Programme aligned to the IB standards.

Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

- Special Education teachers and Special Education paraprofessionals
- Full time classroom paraprofessionals
- Occupational and Physical Therapists
- A full time School Speech and Language Pathologist
- Social worker, Psychologist, and Guidance Counselor
- Supports for the English Language Learners
- ALEKS program, computer support for students through the Office of Advanced Academics
- Participation in the SURGE grant - *Serving the Under Represented by Grouping Equitably* - in order to identify and increase the number of students in Gifted and Talented programs and to increase academic achievement through Response to Intervention.

- Participation in the Visual Thinking Curriculum- The staff and students receive training in the Creative Teaching Strategies. Students learn through noticing and wondering about different pieces of art related to the topic and the content area.
- Genius Hour for the students to work in groups based on their interest
- School Support Teacher to provide transformative coaching for differentiated instruction to increase student success.
- Specialized and adaptive equipment
- Adapting PE for students with mobility issue: Auditory adjustments for students with auditory needs, noise canceling headphones readily available, specialized small group instruction, mindful area has been created
- Differentiated instruction for all learners
- Multiple ways to show evidence of learning
- Students receive specific accommodations based on their individual needs.
- Accommodations based on family situations (ELL, homeless, foster care, absent parents)