



## SCHOOL OF CHOICE

### Student Support Services Policy

#### POLICY

Lakecrest provides a responsive teaching and learning environment, offering support for a variety of learning needs and abilities. As an independent school, Lakecrest is not able to provide extensive, ongoing school based support services to students with intellectual disability and/or specific learning disorders, emotional/behavioral disorders, neurodevelopmental and related disorders, speech and/or language disorders, or other disorders/disabilities/challenges, or the same level of support provided by the public education system. However, when Lakecrest, at its sole discretion, determines that it can provide certain accommodations, it will endeavor to do so. If Lakecrest concludes that it cannot provide the required support in programming, it may be determined that the student will be better able to obtain the needed services in another educational environment.

Lakecrest works with families to support all students following best teaching practices and reserves the right to review the enrollment of a student when it determines that it cannot meet a student's needs. Notwithstanding the absence of special services, parents may wish to have their child remain at Lakecrest because of the inherent advantages such as class size, personal attention and nurturing, inclusive culture. In such circumstances, the guardians may seek the approval of the school to allow the student to remain at Lakecrest and if such approval is obtained, the student may remain at Lakecrest with Guardians' provision of a written acknowledgement and acceptance of the terms and conditions of this policy, including the condition that the school will not be held responsible for any outcomes resulting from the school's inability to provide special educational services and supports.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

All known and documented disabilities should be listed on the original application form for incoming students. Families are required to disclose their learner's health and learning needs, including disabilities/disorders, and are asked to provide Lakecrest with the medical documentation or comprehensive assessment results that support the diagnosis and outline recommendations and required support. Failure to do so may impede Lakecrest's ability to ensure the needs of students are best supported in the school environment, and may result in a student being withdrawn.

Copies of medical documentation and/or comprehensive assessment results will be stored in the School Counsellor or Head of School's office in a locked cabinet. Other Lakecrest Staff will not have access to these files, however, information about disabilities and learning needs will be shared with staff as required. v

## **COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT**

When a student requires a comprehensive educational assessment, it shall be the responsibility of the guardian(s) to obtain such testing. A comprehensive assessment may indicate the need to provide accommodations or modifications in a student's program of study. Modifications will only be provided for student enrichment, however, accommodations can be made when deemed necessary and when resources are available to do so.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

The inclusion of accommodations in a particular subject area is at the discretion of the classroom or subject area teacher, in consultation with the Head of School and/or School Counsellor or Staff acting in a student support capacity. Accommodations provided in one area of instruction, topic or grade level does not guarantee accommodations can be provided across all topics, courses, grades or subject areas. Resources, staff, scheduling and space may impact the provision of accommodations. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to discuss their students' needs with School Staff. A record of suggested accommodations may be completed and signed by a teacher and/or guardian but this does not guarantee their use across grades or subject areas.

While a student's learning needs may be met in the classroom through responsive teaching intervention, beyond this level of support the inclusion of accommodations for students with disabilities/disorders should occur based on the results of a comprehensive assessment or medical documentation, outlining recommendations and type of support required. A signed record of suggested accommodations is recommended. Students from Kindergarten through Grade 2 may not qualify for a

comprehensive assessment or medical diagnosis, however, any accommodations that are being provided should be recorded.

## **What Are Accommodations?**

Accommodations are changes that remove barriers and support students with equal access to learning. Accommodations do not change what the student is learning. Rather, they change how the individual is learning. This is what makes accommodations different from modifications. A modification changes what a student is expected to know or learn.

## **Types of Accommodations**

There are four categories of accommodations that Lakecrest teachers may be able to provide:

**Presentation:** A change in the way information is presented. Example: Letting a child with a specific learning disorder in reading listen to audiobooks instead of reading printed text.

**Response:** A change in the way a child completes assignments or tests. Example: Providing a keyboard to a child who struggles with handwriting when they are writing an essay.

**Setting:** A change in the environment where a child learns. Example: Allowing a child with ADHD to take a test in a separate room with fewer distractions.

**Timing and scheduling:** A change to the time a child has for a task. Example: Providing extra time on homework for a child who has challenges with processing.