



American International School of Freetown

Special Education Funding Policy

Inspiring knowledgeable caring thinkers!

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline how the American International School of Freetown will allocate resources for special education services. We aim to provide equitable and effective support for students with diverse learning needs to truly inspire our students to be successful, thoughtful, and caring thinkers.

Principles

1. **Inclusion:** At AISF, we believe in an inclusive education system that values diversity and ensures that all students have access to quality education.
2. **Collaboration:** Collaboration among teachers, parents, and specialists is essential for effective special education.
3. **Differentiated Support:** We recognize that students have varying needs, and our support services should be tailored accordingly.

Funding Allocation

1. **Basic Learning Support:**
 - The school will cover the costs associated with basic learning support services. These may include:
 - **Inclusive Classroom Strategies:** Training for teachers to create inclusive learning environments.
 - **Learning Support Teachers:** Support for students within regular classrooms and in small pull-out groups.
 - **Assistive Technology:** Providing necessary tools for students with learning differences.
 - **Curriculum Adaptations:** Modifying curriculum materials as needed.
 - Funding for basic learning support will be allocated from the general school budget.
2. **One-to-One Specialized Therapy:**
 - Parents will be responsible for funding one-to-one specialized therapy services. These services may include:
 - **Speech and Language Therapy**
 - **Occupational Therapy**
 - **Behavioral Therapy**
 - **Physical Therapy**
 - **Counseling**
 - The school will collaborate with external providers, including virtual providers, to ensure high-quality services.
 - Parents can choose their preferred providers, and costs will be directly borne by them.
 - In some cases, the providers may work only with the school, in which case the school will levy a special education fee to cover the cost of the therapy.
 - In the case where a student requires a full-time one-to-one special education aide, the school will work with the family to select an appropriate aide. The aide will work as a contractor for the school and AISF will charge a special education fee.



Transparency and Communication

1. Cost Transparency:

- The school will clearly communicate the costs associated with specialized therapy services.
- Parents will receive detailed information about fees, payment schedules, and available options.

2. Individualized Education Plans (IEPs):

- For students receiving specialized therapy, the school will develop individualized education plans (IEPs) in collaboration with parents, teachers, and therapists.
- IEPs will outline specific goals, accommodations, and the roles of all stakeholders.

3. Regular Updates:

- The school will provide regular updates to parents regarding their child's progress and any adjustments to services.

Review and Evaluation

1. Annual Review:

- The funding policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness.
- Feedback from parents, teachers, and specialists will inform any necessary adjustments.

2. Equity Assessment:

- The school will assess whether the funding allocation supports equitable access to services for all students.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 27 March 2024.

Please note that this policy was partially drafted by ChatGPT4.