HAMILTON ELEMENTARY

IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) Inclusion Policy

Excellence and Equity in Education

Kentwood Public Schools is committed to our vision of **Excellence and Equity in Education** for each student. As one of the most diverse school districts in Michigan, we celebrate diversity while elevating equity of opportunities and outcomes for every learner. We believe that every student deserves access to a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment where they can thrive academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Our mission is to ensure that each student achieves academic excellence in an environment where they are supported, motivated, empowered, and experience a strong sense of belonging. Inclusion is fundamental to achieving this mission.

Student-Centered Vision

Our commitment to inclusion is grounded in the Kentwood Public Schools Student Vision Statements. We strive to create learning environments where every student can say:

- I know we all belong and are valued.
- I am motivated to learn and achieve new and challenging ideas.
- I see myself and others in my learning.
- I am cared for, supported, and heard.
- I am empowered to influence my community.

Our Beliefs About Inclusion

Kentwood Public Schools recognizes that every learner brings unique strengths, experiences, identities, and perspectives to our schools. We believe that diversity enriches our learning community and that equitable access to learning opportunities is essential for student success.

Inclusion is an ongoing process of identifying and removing barriers that may limit participation, engagement, achievement, or belonging. These barriers may exist within systems, structures, policies, practices, learning environments, or perceptions. Through intentional action, we work to ensure that every student has access to meaningful learning experiences and the support necessary to reach their full potential.

Inclusive Practices

To cultivate equitable opportunities and outcomes for all learners, Kentwood Public Schools is committed to:

- **Whole-Child Environments.** Creating inclusive school environments that recognize and address the whole child, including social, emotional, physical, and mental wellness. Students are welcomed, respected, and supported in environments that foster safety, belonging, and well-being.
- **Equitable Opportunities and Outcomes.** Celebrating diversity while elevating equity of opportunities and outcomes for every student. We intentionally examine and address barriers that may impact access, participation, and achievement.
- **High-Quality Instruction.** Implementing evidence-based instructional practices that are culturally responsive, student-centered, and aligned to high standards of excellence. Teachers utilize

differentiation, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and flexible pathways to support learner variability and maximize engagement.
- **Collaborative Partnerships.** Partnering with students, families, staff, and community members to support student success. Inclusion is a shared responsibility, and collaboration is essential to meeting the needs of every learner.
- **Access and Support.** Providing reasonable adjustments, accommodations, assistive technology, and specialized supports that allow students to access learning, demonstrate understanding, and participate fully in school life. These supports are designed to remove barriers while promoting independence, dignity, and student agency.

Roles and Responsibilities

Creating an inclusive culture requires collective responsibility.

- **Students** contribute to a culture of respect, belonging, and learning.
- **Teachers** are educators of all students and are responsible for implementing inclusive instructional practices.
- **Families** are valued partners whose voices and perspectives strengthen student success.
- **Support staff and specialists** collaborate to provide equitable access and targeted supports.
- **School and district leaders** establish systems, allocate resources, and remove barriers that promote inclusion throughout the district.

Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Kentwood Public Schools is committed to ongoing reflection and improvement to ensure our policies, practices, and learning environments align with our vision of Excellence and Equity in Education. Through continuous learning, collaboration, and engagement with our community, we will cultivate schools where every student feels valued, supported, challenged, and empowered to succeed.

Together, we create schools where all students belong, all students are valued, and all students have the opportunity to thrive.

Review and Policy Maintenance
This policy is reviewed annually in collaboration with the IB team, the Hamilton Leadership Team, the PTC, the Central Office team, classroom data practices, and IB PYP standards.