

## Covenant Community Preschool (CCP) Inclusion Policy

### Policy Statement:

CCP is committed to provide developmentally appropriate early learning and development experiences that support access and participation of each child. We believe that each child is unique and will work in partnership with families and professionals involved in the child's care to provide the support needed to enable school success.

### Strategies:

Inclusive Environment CCP uses developmentally appropriate practices and considers the unique needs of each child when planning and making the realistic adaptations necessary to meet the needs of children. Staff works with therapists and other professionals to implement strategies into class routines and activities.

Family-Centered Practices CCP acknowledges and respects the priority each family has for their child. Parents are encouraged and supported to collaborate with staff to ensure that each child has an opportunity for school success.

Professional Development and Support for Staff CCP is not a therapeutic school, however, efforts are made to ensure that CCP staff are confident to meet the developmental and educational needs of children we serve.

Collaboration with Other Professionals Many children with special needs including behavioral are supported by developmental and educational professionals such as therapists. CCP welcomes professionals and works with them to help assure the child's success. The service provider is welcomed to provide services for child in the classroom environment and work collaboratively with the classroom teachers to determine the best strategies to support the child in the group setting. CCP supports the child's teacher's participation in Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings. Shadow support is welcomed and occasionally required by CCP if it is deemed necessary by staff or outside professionals for the child's success in school.

In some cases, CCP may not be capable to provide the level of services a child needs. If this is determined, CCP will work with the child's parents to locate a school that specializes in the child's particular learning profile.

### Considerations for enrollment

1.Children who have been evaluated and identified as having special needs before their enrollment are considered for admission on an individual basis. Relevant records and evaluations must be provided to CCP at the time of application, including an IEP if available. The Director will consult with parents to gain information about the child's developmental strengths and weaknesses. Based on this information the Director will decide on enrollment.

2.Parent's failure to share pertinent records and evaluations may void the enrollment of the child at CCP.

3.The behavior and maturity of the child may influence the child's success in school.

4.To attend CCP the child must have the ability to maintain the class schedule, throughout the school year.

After enrollment, the child is observed to determine CCP's ability to meet the child's needs. A conference may be scheduled between the child's parents and teachers to discuss the child's progress and other identified needs.

### Two possible determinations are made:

- **The child's presence in the classroom is of mutual benefit to the child and CCP.**
- **CCP is unable to meet the child's needs.**

If it is determined by consultation between the parents and staff that CCP is unable to meet the child's needs, the parents are asked to seek another school placement. CCP will offer assistance in seeking placement.

A child not identified as having special needs before admission may be asked for an evaluation after acceptance to CCP. The recommendation for the evaluation may originate with the staff, parents, or health personnel. Parents are expected to arrange for an evaluation within 30 days and share the date of evaluation with CCP staff to continue enrollment. CCP will offer guidance during this process. **A copy of results of the evaluation is required to be shared with CCP staff to continue enrollment.** CCP also asks that staff be permitted to participate in placement and IEP meetings. Based on information received and consultations with parents, teachers, and professionals, a decision about the child's continued enrollment will be made. If parents decline evaluation of their child, and it is determined the child is not functioning well in the classroom, parents will then be asked to seek other placement.

Whenever possible, CCP will make reasonable adaptations to meet the individual needs of each child. However, the safety and successful functioning of the class unit always has priority over the individual needs of any given child.

CCP will strive to accommodate as broad a range as possible in the belief that this diversity strengthens and enriches all children and the adults who work with them.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amended **January 2019**