

## **AISL SUPPORT SERVICES** **(Learning, Counseling and English Language Learning)**

AISL is a private, secular American school in Lagos, Nigeria. It seeks to accommodate students of differing abilities and interests and who can to succeed in a mainstream classroom in the context of a college preparatory program. All students must demonstrate average to above average grades for admission and the goal of AISL support services is to help qualifying students meet classroom expectations independently, without detracting from the education of other students.

AISL has a range of support services for students including:

1. **Learning support** opportunities for students with mild learning disabilities.
2. **Counseling** for all students
3. **English Language Learning** for students who require support in speaking, listening, reading and writing in English up to and including Grade 10.

It must be noted, however, that at present, the layout of the current AISL campus prevents accommodation of some students requiring physical assistance.

### **1. LEARNING SUPPORT**

#### **Key Understandings**

- AISL provides learning support services for children with mild learning challenges.
- Learning support services are not intended to provide alternate course of study nor modification of curriculum.
- AISL recognizes that some of its students have specific learning challenges, language differences, and/or behavioral issues that require support. The provision of student support services is consistent with the school wide adopted standards-based curriculum.
- Learning support services will be provided within the limits and capacity of the schools existing resources, facilities and personnel.
- A student may be identified with more intensive learning needs after admission.
- At the end of the current school year, any student whose needs exceed the regular support services provided at AISL (LSS Levels 0, 1 or 2) may have their enrollment discontinued.
- In all cases, the principal has the authority to deny admission or discontinue enrollment.

#### **Learning Support Levels**

- **Level 0:** A student's needs can be met in the regular classroom with no pullout intervention. The student support teacher may come into the classroom to assist with accommodations to instruction, assignments and/or assessments.
- **Level 1:** A student requires less than 45 minutes per day of targeted small group instruction in the Learning Support Service room. Accommodations may be made to instruction, assignments and/or assessments.
- **Level 2:** Student requires 45-90 minutes per day of targeted small group instruction, or any one-on-one instruction, in the Learning Support Service room. Accommodations may be made to instruction, assignments and/or assessments.
- **Level 3:** Student requires a modified curriculum, specially designed instruction, extensive time, additional staffing or accommodations to building facilities due to learning, social, emotional, behavioral or physical challenges. AISL does not have the facilities or resources to meet the needs of these students at any grade level

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### **Learning Support Services at AISL: *Elementary School***

- AISL can accommodate and provide support to students whose needs can be classified as Levels 0, 1 or 2
- At this time, AISL ES cannot accommodate nor accept students whose needs can be classified as level 3.
- AISL offers a continuum of services for students with academic needs that includes assisting students with mild to moderate learning difficulties and poor study skills.
- Students may be supported in the regular classroom, or come to the Learning Support Service room where they may receive one:one instruction or work in small groups.
- Interventions may include access to a learning teacher support teacher, counseling services, and any accommodations to assignments and assessments that are consistent with the school's mission. Such accommodations must be appropriate to age and grade level expectations and does not modify curricular content.

### **Learning Support Services at AISL: *Middle School***

- AISL can accommodate and provide support to students whose needs can be classified as level 0 and level 1 only.
- At this time, AISL MS cannot accommodate students nor accept students whose needs can be classified as level 2 or 3.
- AISL offers limited services for students with academic support needs that include assisting students with mild to moderate learning difficulties and poor study skills.
- Students may be supported in the regular classroom, or come to the Learning Support Service room for less than 45 minutes per day where they may receive one:one instruction or work in small groups.
- Interventions may include counseling services, and any accommodations to assignments and assessments that are consistent with the recommendations in documented assessments and the school's mission. Such accommodations must be appropriate to age and grade level expectations and may not modify curricular content.

### **Learning Support Services at AISL: *High School***

- AISL can accommodate and provide support to students whose needs can be classified as level 0 only.
- AISL HS cannot accommodate nor accept students whose needs can be classified as level 1, 2 or 3.
- Interventions may include counseling services, and any accommodations to assignments and assessments that are consistent with the recommendations in documented assessments and the school's mission. Such accommodations must be appropriate to age and grade level expectations and may not modify curricular content.

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**2. COUNSELING**

**Key Understandings**

AISL provides all students equitable access to counseling services that focus on academic success, personal and social development and career and college guidance. Delivery of these services may be provided through individual and group activities as well as through classroom and assembly participation.

At AISL we endeavor to support the *students* by:

- Planning suitable academic programs for students
- Providing short-term personal counseling.
- Assisting with strategies to address academic challenges.
- Assisting with adjustment issues.
- Exploring career interests and possibilities.
- Advising for college admissions testing in the HS.
- Developing an admissions portfolio for HS students that may include: resume, essay, recommendations and guiding seniors through the university admissions and selection process.

At AISL we will endeavor to support *parents* by:

- Consulting on issues affecting their child's academic, social, or emotional growth.
- Presenting workshops on topics of interest to students and parents of high school students.

At AISL we will endeavor to support *school-wide instruction* by:

- Coordinating with teachers to enhance academic success for individual students.
- Consulting with teachers and parents concerning the social/emotional growth of students.
- Referring to mental health service providers where appropriate and available.
- Liaising with college admissions officers.

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**3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING**

**Key Understandings**

- AISL accepts students with little to no prior education in the English language and provides them with support for English and second language classes within their daily schedule. The level of support will be decided from a proficiency test taken as part of the admissions process.
- AISL has an ELL program for students who require support in speaking, listening, reading and writing in English.
- The AISL ELL program provides English language learners with an enriched, language-immersion education in which English is the primary language of instruction. Our school-wide instruction and assessment is designed to facilitate our students' learning to meet and exceed our academic standards.
- At AISL English language learning is taught as a subject and through subject matter consistent with mainstream teachers, thereby developing both the skills and abilities to use English for social, intercultural and instructional purposes. A grade appropriate level of English proficiency is our ultimate instructional goal so that ELL students have a level of English proficiency by the end of the tenth grade that allows them to participate in a rigorous college preparatory program in the mainstream classroom as required by AISL Board Policy (3.102).

**ELL Levels**

- **Level 0:** If the student is at or above grade level, he/she can be exited completely from the ELL program and is integrated into the general academic program with continued monitoring until independent.
- **Level 1:** If the student has an intermediate level of English (at least Grade 5 G.E.) and is testing at G.E. or <1yr below G.E. the **ELL Exit Checklist** will be given to core teachers by the ELL teacher. Students can only exit the program if the Social Science, Science and Math teachers agree that the student should be exited. The checklist helps to formalize the exit process and will help core teachers to focus on 'ELL-related' criteria.

Students who are ready to exit the ELL program will have most checks in the '**Frequently**'; and '**Consistently**' columns. However, if say the student's writing is evaluated as being mostly in the 'sometimes' column- that student should probably not be exited. The checklists are not meant as a tool to pressure teachers to agree with an ELL teacher's decision. The goal of the ELL program at AISL is for students to acquire enough English language skills to function independently in mainstream classes. Therefore, core teachers are the best judges of whether the student is ready or not.

If the student is not at grade level but is performing and succeeding in Social Sciences, Science and Math without difficulties, he/she may be placed into the regular English class and continue with one course of ELL during their Second Language time.

- **Level 2:** If the student has a beginner level of English and is testing >1 yr below Grade equivalency, he/she requires two ELL courses of study.