

## **DMCS Student Support Policy**

**Policy:** DMCS uses multiple indicators of student progress and status to establish individualized learning plans for every student. For students with special needs—ranging from learning disabilities to those eligible for gifted and talented programs—DMCS employs diverse programs and approaches to monitoring students, providing appropriate services, and evaluating the schools success with these students and programs.

### **Activities and Tools:**

1. Response to Intervention (RTI). RTI is an approach of escalating interventions for students struggling academically, with the focus being on ensuring that students receive the academic support and intervention they require. At DMCS, RTI is also viewed as a specific strategy to ensure that students are not mistakenly identified for special education services when academic support is the more appropriate approach
2. Student Support Teams
3. Individualized Learning Plans, Individualized Education Plans, and/or 504 plans. All students at DMCS have individualized learning plans, consistent with the school's Montessori education philosophy. These plans are designed to reflect each student's academic standing, their assessment results, and their progress towards achieving or exceeding grade-level proficiency.
4. Benchmark and formative assessment tools, including an evaluation of the assessment tools and programs used by DMCS.
5. The DMCS Annual Report to its community and the State Board of Education includes an analysis of its strategies, programs, tools, and support for all students and is posted on the DMCS web site.

**Training and Operations:** DMCS provides training and support for its staff and administration in:

- RTI
- Evaluation for referral for special education assessment
- Benchmark and formative assessment instruments administration, evaluation, and reporting of results.

DMCS' Student Support Team—comprising the school director, the school's resource teacher, and one additional staff member—receive ongoing training and support and report to the DMCS board annually on their activities and services.