

## **Inclusive Education Policy**

### **IB Diploma Programme**

### **Porsgrunn Videregående Skole**

Porsgrunn January, 2026

Porsgrunn Videregående School recognizes the right and responsibility of every student to experience the joy of setting and achieving meaningful goals as a learner and as a human being, alone and together with others, and to contribute to the school community as a valued and unique member of it.

We believe that when students work with teachers and each other, the diversity of their backgrounds, abilities, skills, and interests strengthens both the individuals' learning and the learning community. Therefore, our view is that all students shall as far as possible take part in regular learning activities, and only in situations where a student has significant concentration, behavior, language or learning difficulties or illnesses that make learning in the classroom inappropriate, shall more individualistic arrangements be made.

Porsgrunn videregående school is regulated by Norwegian Law. Norwegian inclusion policy, aligned with EU rules, emphasizes equal treatment, non-discrimination, and active participation of marginalized groups in society and the labor market. Through the EEA Agreement, Norway incorporates EU directives on anti-discrimination, disability rights, and social inclusion, ensuring legal protection and affirmative measures for minorities, migrants, and people with disabilities. Policy instruments include targeted education, employment quotas, accessibility standards, and integration programs, all monitored to comply with EU acquis on fundamental rights, equal opportunities, and social cohesion.

### **Accessibility**

All students must have equal access to education, which translates into requirements that school buildings and facilities are universally designed ("universell utforming" under Norway's Anti-Discrimination and Accessibility Act). This means that entrances, classrooms, toilets, and common areas must be physically accessible to students with disabilities—covering step-free access, ramps, lifts, tactile signage, adapted toilets, and evacuation

routines. New buildings must meet strict accessibility standards, while older buildings must be adapted as far as possible.

Schools must implement reasonable accommodation for individual needs, ensuring no student is excluded due to physical barriers, in line with non-discrimination and inclusion mandates. Compliance is monitored by the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs and the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud.

The IB programme at Porsgrunn videregående is situated in a building from 1969 which is adapted to comply with the regulations of the law.

### **Social support**

Porsgrunn VGS has a dedicated full-time counselor concerned with students' social, emotional and psychological welfare in accordance with Norwegian regulations. Additionally, a school nurse is also available 5 days a week to meet solely with students on a drop-in-basis. Students may request an appointment at any time.

In accordance with Norwegian regulations, students who are diagnosed with or express a need for psychological counseling are referred to the local authority service and assigned a counselor/psychologist.

Prior to the start of the IB Programme all students are interviewed to see which level they are at in English, math and Norwegian. This is to ensure that they choose the right subjects to be able to finish their Diploma. Upon starting the IB Programme at Porsgrunn VGS, students are placed in classes with their appointed class teacher, who is also their teacher in at least one IB subject. The class teacher will also conduct personal in-depth interviews with each student to discuss pertinent issues: academic, social, psychological and physical. A follow-up meeting will be arranged at the end of each semester.

The CAS coordinator meets with the Coordinator on a regular basis every semester to give an overview of student progress and the situation around their CAS programme. At this time, any problems or issues are discussed and progress, or lack thereof, is checked.

Meetings are called twice every semester to record grades, behavior and the general attitude of students to spot any problems, actual or potential, and alert the class teacher to any issues. The class teacher will then raise these issues with the relevant student (s) and if necessary contact parents and the DP Coordinator.

The class teacher and the DP coordinator observe students with special needs and will inform the students of their rights within the IB Diploma Programme with regard to the help available with the final written exams.

### **Academic support**

Porsgrunn VGS has a dedicated IB counselor to offer career advice as well as assistance with university applications and all such related matters. Appointments are made as necessary. In addition, the counselor is a member of the IB leadership group together with the IBDP

Coordinator and the CAS Coordinator and attends all pedagogical forum meetings in addition to general IB meetings with the IB Coordinator to issue information and illicit response/information on student needs.

### **Inclusive practices in teaching and assessment**

Under Norway's Education Act (Opplæringsloven § 1-3), all students are entitled to "tilpasset opplæring" (adapted education) tailored to their abilities and needs, including academic, social, and emotional support.

Porsgrunn videregående school practices universal design principles in education and reasonable accommodations for individual students including students with disabilities such as neurodivergence and learning disorders such as dyslexia. Such principles include adjustments in teaching methods, materials, and assessments. We identify needs, adapt teaching and assessment, provide necessary support and accommodations, and ensure non-discrimination—enabling all students to participate fully in education.

Porsgrunn videregående collaborates with parents and relevant services (e.g., PPT—Pedagogical-Psychological Service) and document support measures and progress.