

Cairo American College Learning Support Services Philosophy

Learning Support Services (LSS) aim to meet the individual needs of students with learning challenges by being responsive to the ever expanding wealth of knowledge about how humans learn. The primary purpose is to provide each learner an appropriate and supportive learning environment. With specific support, learners master concepts and develop skills and strategies that will lead to competency in the mainstream school environment. Specialized instructional support aims to provide an optimal match between resources and the learner's needs.

We believe the following about learners:

- As students gain an awareness and acceptance of their unique learning needs, they gain confidence to self advocate in educational settings and beyond.
- Student learning needs may change as the student matures.
- Students learn in a variety of ways and at varying rates.
- Students become meta-cognitively aware of a variety of strategies and flexibly use them in different learning environments.
- When students are given a range of options for demonstrating their understanding, evidence of their learning is facilitated.
- Learning is enhanced when students take risks, take responsibility for their learning, and are actively involved in assessing and being responsive to their learning.

Effective teaching practices for students with learning challenges include:

- matching appropriate interventions and strategies to each learner's needs,
- providing interventions and strategies that consider the learner from a holistic perspective (intellectual, social, emotional, physical),
- building on each learner's strengths while supporting growth/development in areas of challenge,
- pursuing professional development that aligns with current research and best practices in education,
- collaborating and sharing responsibility for each student's learning with classroom teachers,
- collaborating with home, and
- contributing to team common agreements that result in an articulated effective school-wide program including:
 - procedures and policies,
 - service delivery model,
 - shared understanding of terminology,
 - assessments,
 - entrance and exit criteria,
 - transition processes, and
 - other essential components.