



# Support for Students in Historically Marginalized Groups

The "I" in JFK's P.R.I.D.E. values system stands for "Inclusion" and remains a core school-wide value. This is reflected in JFK's programming, behavior response, outreach, and services for historically marginalized communities.

## Culturally Responsive Trained Staff

JFK staff exceeds the Whole Child benchmark in culturally responsive education training. JFK's 2018-2019 weekly professional development meetings were rooted in the book **Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain**. In 2019-2020, JFK Administration built on this work by ensuring 100% of JFK staff completed "**No Nonsense Nurturing**," a premiere culturally responsive education training.

## Students in Special Education

JFK has a high population of students receiving Special Education services (over 20% of our students are on IEPs) and hosts three center-based specialized programs, including **Multi-Intensive (MI)**, **Multi-Intensive Severe (MI-S)**, and **Affective Needs (AN)**. JFK technically has two MI Centers, based on the high number of students enrolled. Special Education services at JFK are a top priority, with its leadership at the department and administrative level having many years of experience. In fact, JFK's center-based programs have many unique services to assist in inclusion efforts, including award-winning Theatre, Visual Arts and Unified Sports programs.

JFK is the only school in Colorado with a **Unified Theater program**. This class offers a modified curriculum of JFK's Theatre pathway that focuses on presentation skills and basic acting techniques.

The **Unified Sports program** engages students in sports activities demanding teamwork, sportsmanship, movement skills, techniques and strategies. The students work to acquire appropriate social behavior and functional knowledge of Special Olympics regulations. This class provides all students the opportunity to build friendships, increase knowledge of persons with cognitive delays, develop self-esteem, and become physically fit.

### DID YOU KNOW?

JFK is the ONLY school in Colorado with a Unified Theater program!

Founded by JFK Teacher, Timothy Boyles



**JFK Unified Theatre students perform their Spring 2019 production of "ISH".**



**A JFK Special Education student proudly shows off his medal following the Spring 2019 JFK Special Olympics.**



## Special Education Continued

### Peer-to-Peer Physical Education

This course is a two-sequence course for students with disabilities and their peers in the general education program. Students are taught grade level physical education through a modified curriculum. Students collaborate and participate in activities consisting of, but not limited to, physical and motor skills, fundamental motor skills and patterns, fitness, lifetime/leisure activities, team sports, and IEP goals/objectives while demonstrating appropriate social skills in a physical activity setting. All students have the opportunity to develop positive relationships, learn about individual differences, and build self-esteem through the participation of sport and physical fitness.



JFK Multi-Intensive Center students gather on the fields during Peer-to-Peer Physical Education class.

### English Language Learners (ELL)

JFK is the only school in the district that has a **Spanish CareerConnect Coach** mentoring cohort. This allows for a wider range of equity and access for native Spanish Speakers with low ACCESS scores. This is breaking down the language barrier and allowing more students to access guidance on Career and College opportunities.

JFK offers students the **Seal of Biliteracy**, which recognizes students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages.

The JFK Mental Health staff host both a **DREAMers support group** and club for students who have moved to the United States from another country. School Counselors also conduct targeted ELL interventions in order to “close-the-gap”. This year, they have focused on 11th grade ELLs.

**Latinos In Action (LIA)** offers an asset-based approach to bridging the graduation and opportunity gap for Latino students, working from within the educational system to create positive change. This program operates as a year-long elective course taught by a highly-qualified teacher at the middle school, junior high, and high school level. The end goal is to empower Latino youth to lead and strengthen their communities through college and career readiness. This is accomplished by focusing on four pillars: leveraging personal and cultural assets, excelling in education, serving the community, and developing leadership skills.



Students with IEPs prepare plants in the the ACE Connect Greenhouse for upcoming planting in the school community garden.



## Students of Color

JFK prides itself on the culturally responsive practices of the staff and programming/activities available for JFK's students of color and ELL populations. As previously mentioned, 100% of JFK staff completed the **"No Nonsense Nurturing"** training, a premiere culturally responsive practice. One of JFK's annual traditions is the Diversity Assembly. Hosted by the student-run **Diversity Club**, this school-wide assembly celebrates our diverse culture through student and professional performances, such as Flamenco, Mariachi, and Aztec community performers. Finally, JFK hosts an annual **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration**.

**Colorado Uplift** is a program that focuses on introducing urban students to a positive and caring adult who can ensure they do not have to navigate life's toughest challenges alone. Uplift mentors guide students so that they may prosper economically and socially.

**The Native American Student Support Program** provides services designed to help students achieve and be successful within DPS. JFK staff recognize the unique needs of Native American students and their families, which stem from cultural values, traditional customs, and settings. JFK is a school with over two dozen Native American students who meet monthly for educational, cultural, and social gatherings.

## LGBTQ Students

JFK hosts a **Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club**, renamed Rainbow Alliance, for LGBTQ students and their allies. The group participates in the yearly DPS GSA Summits and JFK's Homecoming Parade. In addition, they have advocated for LGBTQ inclusion lessons in Advisory and two student gender neutral bathrooms. Finally, JFK's Principal promotes a LGBTQ-friendly community norm of identifying correct pronouns by including "Pronouns: She, Her, Hers" in her email signature .



**JFK's annual Diversity Assembly, Spring 2018**



**The JFK Native American Student Support group celebrating Indigenous People's Day**



**DREAMers and Rainbow Alliance clubs recruit in the JFK Main Hall**