

INSTRUCTION

Independent

BP 6158

Study

The Board of Trustees authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for eligible students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan to serve students who desire a more challenging educational experience, whose health or other personal circumstances make classroom attendance difficult, who are unable to access courses due to scheduling problems, and/or who need to make up credits or fill gaps in their learning. As necessary to meet student needs, independent study may be offered either on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part-time or full-time classroom study.

The Superintendent or designee may provide a variety of independent study opportunities, including, but not limited to, through a program or class within a comprehensive school, an alternative school or program of choice, a charter school, a home-based format, and an online course.

A student's participation in independent study shall be voluntary. Students participating in independent study shall have the right to return to the regular classroom mode of instruction at the parent or guardian's request. (Education Code § 51747; 5 CCR § 11700)

The District shall offer independent study to meet the needs of students unless the requirement to provide independent study is waived by the San Joaquin County Office of Education. (Education Code § 51745)

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the Superintendent or designee shall approve independent study for an individual student only upon determining that the student is prepared to meet the District's requirements for independent study and is likely to succeed in independent study as well as or better than he/she would in the regular classroom setting.

the Superintendent or designee shall provide written notice to parents and guardians, as required by law, of their option to enroll their child in in-person instruction or independent study, including their right to request a student-parent-teacher conference before enrollment, student rights regarding enrolling, dis-enrolling, and re-enrolling in independent study, and the synchronous and asynchronous instructional time frame that a student will have in independent study; this information shall also be posted on the District's website. (Education Code § 51747(h))

The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be three consecutive school days.

Electronic Agreements (Informed K-12)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a electronic agreement exists for each student participating in independent study as prescribed by law. (Education Code §§ 51747, 51749.5)

Student-Teacher Conferences

Supervising teachers should establish an appropriate schedule for student-teacher conferences in order to help identify students falling behind in their work or in danger of failing or dropping out of school. Teachers are expected to monitor student progress and work closely with each student to determine the amount and type of contact needed for the student to be successful in the program.

Missing appointments with the supervising teacher without valid reasons or lack of contact within 15 consecutive days may trigger an evaluation to determine whether the student should remain in independent study.

Program Reporting and Certification

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board the number of District students participating in independent study, the average daily attendance generated for apportionment purposes, student performance as measured by standard indicators and in comparison to students in classroom-based instruction, and the number and proportion of independent study students who graduate or successfully complete independent study. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that applicable student achievement data is recorded for all students participating in independent study for 15 or more instructional days.

Course-based independent study programs for students in grades 6-12 shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor, educational quality, and intellectual challenge substantively equivalent to in-person instruction and equivalent to classroom-based courses, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards; this certification shall include access to all courses offered by the District for graduation and approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under A-G admissions criteria. This certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that the student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses, and a plan to provide pupil with instructional opportunities as follows, as set forth in the administrative regulation:

- For students in grades 6-12: synchronous instruction at least weekly.

Replaces: 7-30-21