



First Reading of Revised Board Policy 6158, Independent Study

Board Meeting
August 5, 2021
Agenda Item No. 9.1

Presented by: Raoul Bozio, In-House Counsel
Chad Sweitzer, Instructional Assistant Superintendent

AB 130

- Education Code 51745-51749.6 authorize districts to establish independent study programs to meet the educational needs of students.
- On July 9, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 130 into law, which includes changes to the aforementioned sections of the Education Code and requires independent studies to be offered in 2021-2022.
- In addition to programmatic changes to independent study, AB 130 requires new elements that need to be incorporated into written policies and agreements.

AB 130

New Elements for Agreements

- Written agreements must include (among other specifics) the following:
 - The manner, time, frequency, and place for communicating with a pupil's parent or guardian regarding a pupil's academic progress.
 - A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of pupils who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas (including English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities).

AB 130

New Elements for Written Policies

- Written policies must include (among other specifics) the following:
 - Identification of the level of “satisfactory educational progress” (in addition to the number of missed assignments) that will be allowed before an evaluation is conducted to determine whether it is in the best interest of the pupil to remain in independent study or return to the regular school program.
 - The indicators of “satisfactory educational progress” include the pupil’s achievement and engagement, completion of assignments and learning required concepts; and
 - Procedures for tiered reengagement of independent study pupils not generating more than three school days or 60% of the instructional days in a school week, or who are not in compliance with the written agreement; tiered reengagement and several other elements are not required for independent study of fewer than 15 days.

Revision of BP 6158

- Revisions comply with AB 130, which requires the following:
 - Satisfactory progress as an added means to evaluate continued independent study participation and placement;
 - Provision of standards aligned content in independent study that is substantially equivalent to the quality and intellectual challenge of in-person instruction;
 - For high schools, a provision for access to all courses offered by the LEA for graduation and approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the A-G admission criteria;
 - Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies;
 - A plan to provide opportunities for synchronous instruction for all grade levels and live interaction for grades four through eight;
 - A plan to transition pupils whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously and not later than five instructional days;

Revision of BP 6158

- For transitional kindergarten and grades 1-3, a plan to provide opportunities for daily synchronous instruction;
- For grades 4-8, a plan to provide opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction;
- For grades 9-12, a plan to provide opportunities for synchronous instruction at least weekly;
 - Offer Graduation and A-G admission criteria
- Documentation of a pupil's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction; and
- Retention of evidence of a pupil's engagement in instruction

Q & A