

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 12.1e_

Meeting Date: April 4, 2024

<u>Subject</u>: Approve Waiver Request and Affidavit – Request for Allowance Due to

Emergency Conditions

	Information Item Only
\boxtimes	Approval on Consent Agenda
	Conference (for discussion only)
	Conference/Second Reading (Action Anticipated:)
	Conference/Action
	Action
	Public Hearing

Division: Business Services

<u>Recommendation</u>: Approve the submission of the affidavit to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Background/Rationale: In accordance with Education Code Section 41422, the district had emergency school closures for the below dates and reasons. Approval of this request will authorize use of the school closure days towards the computation of LCFF apportionments for Sacramento City Unified School District and meet audit requirements.

- 1. West Campus High School closure on 2/5/2024 due to a storm related power outage
- 2. New Technology Charter High School closure on 2/5/2024 due to a storm related power outage

<u>Financial Considerations</u>: Failure to file this waiver request would result in the district not meeting Education Code requirements and disallowance of the school closure days towards the computation of LCFF apportionments.

LCAP Goal(s): Family and Community Empowerment; Operational Excellence

Documents Attached:

- 1. Request for Allowance of Attendance Due to Emergency Conditions Form J-13A for West Campus High School
- Request for Allowance of Attendance Due to Emergency Conditions Form J-13A for New Technology Charter
- 3. News report of school closures
- 4. Email communication to impacted families
- 5. Certification Form for Independent Study Plan

6. Board Policy 6158-Independent Study

- 7. 2023-24 Secondary School Calendar
- 8. 2023-24 New Technology Charter HS Calendar

Estimated Time: N/A

Submitted by: Janea Marking, Chief Business and Operations Officer

Approved by: Lisa Allen, Interim Superintendent

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE OF ATTENDANCE DUE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

FORM J-13A, REVISED DECEMBER 2017

SECTION A: REQUEST INFORMATION

- This form is used to obtain approval of attendance and instructional time credit pursuant to Education Code (EC) sections 41422, 46200, 46391, 46392 and California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 5, Section 428.
- Only schools that report Principal Apportionment average daily attendance (ADA) for the purpose of calculating a K–12 Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) entitlement should submit this form.
- Refer to the instructions and frequently asked questions at https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/j13a.asp for information regarding the completion of this form.

PART I: LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY (LEA)							
LEA NAME:				COUNTY CODE:	DISTRICT CODE:	CI	CHARTER NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE):
LEA SUPERINTENDENT OR ADMINISTRATOR NAME:						FISCAL Y	YEAR:
ADDRESS:					COUNTY NAME:		
CITY:				STATE:		ZIP CODI	DE:
CONTACT NAME:	TITLE:		PHONE:	<u> </u>	E-MAIL:		
PART II: LEA TYPE AND SCHOOL SITE INFORMATION A	PPLICABLE T	O THIS REQUEST (Choose only or	ne LEA type):				
□ SCHOOL DISTRICT Choose one of the following: □ All district school sites □ Select district school sites		☐ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION Choose one of the following: ☐ All COE school sites ☐ Select COE school sites	DN (COE)		☐ CHARTER SCHOOL		
PART III: CONDITION(S) APPLICABLE TO THIS REQUEST	:			1			
□ SCHOOL CLOSURE: When one or more schools were school(s) without regard to the fact that the school(s) were ADA (per EC Section 41422) without applicable penalty a 46200, et seq. □ There was a Declaration of a State of Emergency by	e closed on th nd obtain cre	e dates listed, due to the nature o dit for instructional time for the day	of the emergency. Applys and the instruction	oroval of this reques al minutes that woul	t authorizes the LEA to dis	sregard thes	se days in the computation of
☐ MATERIAL DECREASE: When one or more schools we include all school sites within the school district must demon district must show that each site included in the request expeattendance for actual days of attendance is in accordance apportionments for the described school(s) and dates in S ☐ There was a Declaration of a State of Emergency by	strate that the erienced a ma with the prov section C durin	school district as a whole experience terial decrease in attendance pursual sisions of EC Section 46392. Appropriate which school attendance was market.	ced a material decreas ant to EC Section 463 aval of this request will naterially decreased of	se in attendance. Mat 92 and <i>CCR</i> , Title 5, Il authorize use of th lue to the nature of t	erial decrease requests for Section 428. The request f e estimated days of attend	one or more or substitution	e but not all sites within the school ion of estimated days of
□ LOST OR DESTROYED ATTENDANCE RECORDS: We cannot be verified due to the loss or destruction of attendance records of any district has shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Superintendance Public Instruction shall estimate the average daily at making of apportionments to the school district from	ance records. The been lost of Bent of Public of Tendance of s	This request is made pursuant to or destroyed, making it impossible instruction by the affidavits of the i uch district. The estimated averag	EC Section 46391: for an accurate repo members of the gove	rt on average daily a rning board of the d	attendance for the district t istrict and the county supe	for any fisca erintendent o	al year to be rendered, which fact of schools, the Superintendent of

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE OF ATTENDANCE DUE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS FORM J-13A, REVISED DECEMBER 2017

SECTION B: SCHOOL CLOSURE							Not Applicable (Proceed	to Section C)
PART I: NATURE OF EMERGENCY (Describe in detail.)							Supplemental Page(s) i	Attached
PART II: SCHOOL INFORMATION (Use the supplemental Exc multiple school sites, and the sites have differing school calend	el form at <u>https</u> ars, attach a co	s://www.cde.c	a.gov/fg/aa/pa/j13a ifferent school cale	nasp if more than endar to the reque	10 lines are nee est.)	eded for this request. Attach a cop	y of a school calendar. If the	e request is for
A	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	
School Name	School Code	Site Type	Days in School Calendar	Emergency Days Built In	Built In Emergend Days Used	Date(s) of Emergency Closure	Closure Dates Requested	Total Number of Days Requested
PART III: CLOSURE HISTORY (List closure history for all scho	l ools in Part II. F	L Refer to the i	nstructions for an	example.)				
A	В	C	istractions for an	D D		Е		F
School Name	School Code	Fiscal Year		Closure Dates		Natu	ıro	Weather Related
School Name	School code	riscai reai		Closure Dates		rvaic		Yes/No

FORM J-13A,	REVISED	DECEMBER	2017

SECTION C: MATERIAL DECREASE						lot Applicable (F	Proceed to Section D)
PART I: NATURE OF EMERGENCY (Describe in detail	.)					Supplemental Pa	ge(s) Attached
PART II: MATERIAL DECREASE CALCULATION (Use	e the supplemental Exce	I file at https://www.cde.ca.c	nov/fg/aa/pa/i13a asp if more th	han 10 lines are nee	eded for this reque	st. Refer to the ins	tructions for information
on completing the form including the definition of "normal	ıl" attendance.)				·		
A	В	С	D	E	F	G*	Н
School Name	School Code	"Normal" Attendance (October/May)	Dates Used for Determining "Normal" Attendance	Date of Emergency	Actual Attendance	Qualifier: 90% or Less (F/C)	Net Increase of Apportionment Days (C-F)
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
	Total:	0.00			0		0.00
PART III: MATERIAL DECREASE CALCULATION FOR lines are needed for this request. Refer to the instruction					e at https://www.cde	.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/j13	Ba.asp if more than 5
A	В	С	D	E	F	G*	Н
School Name	School Code	"Normal" Attendance Hours	Date Used for Determining "Normal" Attendance	Date of Emergency	Actual Attendance Hours	Qualifier: 90% or Less (F/C)	Net Increase of Hours (C-F)
						0.00%	0.00
						0.00%	0.00
						0.00%	0.00
						0.00%	0.00

Total:

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00%

0.00

^{*}Qualifier should be 90% or less except when the governor declares a state of emergency or in the case of a Necessary Small School (NSS) site.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE OF ATTENDANCE DUE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS FORM J-13A, REVISED DECEMBER 2017

SECTION D: LOST OR DESTROYED ATTENDANCE RECORDS		☐ Not Applicable (Proceed to Section E)
PART I: PERIOD OF REQUEST The entire period covered by the lost or destroyed records commences with	up to and including	
PART II: CIRCUMSTANCES (Describe below circumstances and extent of records lost or destroyed.)		
PART III: PROPOSAL (Describe below the proposal to reconstruct attendance records or estimate attendance in the absence of records.)		

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE OF ATTENDANCE DUE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

FORM J-13A, REVISED DECEMBER 2017

PART I: AFFIDAVIT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF							
We, members constituting a majority of the governing board of		, hereby swear (or affirm) that the f	0 0	ed on official records.			
Board Members	<u>Names</u>		Board Members Signatures				
		_					
		_					
At least a majority of the members of the governing board	shall execute this affidavit.						
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) before me, this	day of	·					
Withous		Т:н.	-f	Causely California			
Witness:(Name)	(Signature)	Hue:	of	County, California			
PART II: APPROVAL BY SUPERINTENDENT OF CHART	ER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER (Only applicable to ch	harter school requests)					
Superintendent (or designee): (Name)	(Cinnal		g LEA Name:				
(Name)	(Signati						
PART III: AFFIDAVIT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT O	F SCHOOLS						
The information and statements contained in the foregoing requ	uest are true and correct to the best of my knowledge	e and belief.					
County Superintendent of Schools (or designee):							
	(Name)		(Signature)				
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) before me, this	day of	·					
Witness:		Title:	of	County, California			
(Name)	(Signature)						
$\label{lem:coeff} \mbox{COE contact/individual responsible for completing this section:} \\$							
Name:	itle:	Phone:	E-mail:				

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Here are Northern California school closures on Monday after power outages and snow

X

Updated: 8:19 AM PST Feb 5, 2024

Infinite Scroll Enabled



Daniel Macht ⊠

Digital Media Manager

Many school districts across Northern California have announced school closures on Monday morning because of widespread power outages, the snow, or problems on the roadways.

Here is a running list of the closures.



Advertisement

- St. Francis High School in East Sacramento will be closed because of power and internet outages.
- Jesuit High School in Carmichael will be closed because of a power outage.
- These Lake County public schools will be closed: Lucerne Elementary School, Upper Lake Unified Schools, Cobb Elementary School, Riviera Elementary School, Hance Community School, Konocti Unified School District, Kelseyville Unified School District.
- Yuba College in Marysville will be closed.
- All schools in the Marysville Joint Unified School District will be closed because of power outages and road conditions.
- All Tahoe Truckee Unified schools will be closed because of the snow.
- Sierra College will be closed because of power outages.
- These Yuba City Unified School District schools will be closed: Bridge Street Elementary, April Lane Elementary, Albert Powell High School and Kings Avenue Elementary. Twin Rivers Charter School in Yuba City is also closed.
- These Rocklin Unified School District schools will be closed: Antelope Creek Elementary, Sierra Elementary, Spring View Middle School, Rocklin Elementary.
- Sacramento Country Day School closed today due to power outage and debris on campus
- (Two SCUSD high schools canceled classes because of power outages on Monday: West) Campus and New Tech high schools.

Know of more schools on the list? Email us at web@kcra.com.

| MORE | More than 200,000 customers lose power across Northern California

Jesse M. Castillo

To: Karen Wiker; Brian Heap

Cc: Meuy Saechin

Subject: RE: School closure message

From: Brian Heap < Brian-Heap@scusd.edu > Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:56 PM

To: Karen Wiker < <u>WikerK@scusd.edu</u>>
Subject: School closure message

Hi Karen,

Below is a copy of the messages that were sent to all New Tech HS families and West Campus HS families, respectively, on Monday, February 5, 2024 via ParentSquare. Please let me nw if you need a different format or anything else.

Best,

Brian

School Canceled Due to Storm Related Power outage

Brian Heap • 9 days ago • Monday, Feb 5 at 7:46 AM • Sacramento New Technology High School Dear Sacramento New Tech Community,

All classes are canceled for Monday, February 5, 2024 due to a storm related power outage on campus.

SMUD crews are working to restore power and we fully expect school to be open with a normal schedule on Tuesday.

School Canceled Due to Storm Related Power outage

Brian Heap • 9 days ago • Monday, Feb 5 at 7:41 AM • West Campus High School Dear West Campus Community,

All classes are canceled for Monday, February 5, 2024 due to a storm related power outage on campus.

SMUD crews are working to restore power and we fully expect school to be open with a normal schedule on Tuesday.

Brian Heap

Chief Communications Officer

<u>Sacramento City Unified School District</u>

<u>Brian-Heap@scusd.edu</u>

(916) 643-9145

Sacramento City Unified School District

Human Resource Services

Secondary School Calendar

2023 - 2024 School Year

FIRST SEMESTER	89 Teaching Days
FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION	Thursday, August 31, 2023
Labor Day Holiday	
Veterans' Day Holiday	Friday, November 10, 2023
Thanksgiving Holidays	Saturday, November 18, 2023 through Sunday, November 26, 2023
Winter Holidays	Saturday, December 23, 2023 through Sunday, January 7, 2024
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday	Monday, January 15, 2024
FIRST SEMESTER ENDS	Friday, January 26, 2024

SECOND SEMESTER	91 Teaching Days
SCHOOLS REOPEN FOR SECOND SEMESTER	Monday, January 29, 2024
Lincoln's Day Holiday	Monday, February 12, 2024
President's (Washington's) Day Holiday	Monday, February 19, 2024
Spring Holidays	Saturday, March 23, 2024 through Sunday, March 31, 2024
Memorial Day Holiday	Monday, May 27, 2024
Last Day of Instruction	Thursday, June 13, 2024
SECOND SEMESTER ENDS	Thursday, June 13, 2024

QUARTERS	Dates From	Dates To
Quarter 1	8/31/2023	11/03/2023
Quarter 2	11/06/2023	1/26/2024
Quarter 3	1/29/2024	4/05/2024
Quarter 4	4/08/2024	6/13/2024

	Secondary Reports and Records and Finals Days						
Middle School	Reports and Records	4 days: 2 days:	November 3, 2023; January 26, 2024; April 5, 2024; and June 13, 2024 TBD by Site				
	Final Examinations	4 days: 4 days:	January 22, 2024 through January 25, 2024 June 7, 2024 through June 12, 2024				
High School	Reports and Records	4 days:	November 3, 2023; January 26, 2024; April 5, 2024; and June 13, 2024				

Non-Instructional Teacher Work Days
June 14, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL FISCAL SERVICES DIVISION September 2022

Certification Form for Independent Study Plan

Local Educational Agency: Sacramento City Unified School District	CDS Code: 3467439
Fiscal Year: 2023-24	County: Sacramento

This form shall accompany Form J-13A submittals beginning with fiscal year 2022 23. Instructions on how to complete this form are provided on page 2.

Independent Study Plan Certification

Pursuant to *Education Code* (*EC*) Section 46393, for Form J-13A submissions due to a school closure and/or material decrease in attendance occurring after September 1, 2021, a school district, county office of education, or charter school that provides a Form J-13A affidavit to the Superintendent, pursuant to *EC* Section 41422 (school closure) or *EC* Section 46392 (material decrease), shall certify that it has a plan for which independent study will be offered to students, pursuant to Article 5.5 (commencing with *EC* Section 51745) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 of Division 4. The independent study plan shall comply with all of the following:

- (1) Independent study is offered to any student impacted by any of the conditions listed in *EC* Section 46392 within 10 days of the first day of a school closure or material decrease in attendance. Students who are individuals with exceptional needs shall receive the services identified in their individualized education programs pursuant to paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) of *EC* Section 56345 and may participate in an independent study program.
- (2) Require reopening for in-person instruction as soon as possible unless prohibited under the direction of the local or state health officer.
- (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (c) of *EC* Section 51745 or subparagraph (F) of paragraph (9) of subdivision (g) of Section 51747, include information regarding establishing independent study master agreements in a reasonable amount of time.

A copy of the independent study plan, and if applicable, the state or local public health or public safety order that required school closure shall accompany the Form J-13A submitted to the California Department of Education.

■ I hereby certify that the independent study plan accompanying this Form J-13A submission meets the requirements described above and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

School District Superintendent, Charter School Administrator, or County Superintendent (or designee):

Name: Lisa Allen	Interim Superintendent
Wet Signature:	Date: 02/27/24



APPROVED

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Agenda Item# 10.2

Meeting Date: April 27, 2023

<u>Subject</u>	: Revision to Board Policy 6158: Independent Study
	Information Item Only Approval on Consent Agenda Conference (for discussion only) Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: Conference/Action Action Public Hearing

Division: Academic Office

Recommendation: NA

Background/Rationale:

Independent Study is governed by state Education Code sections 51744-51749.6. The Board voted to update Board Policy 6158 Independent Study in 2021 to bring it into alignment with the mandates in Assembly Bill (AB) 130 that changed the structure of Independent Study in California schools in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. New legislation, AB 181, brought Independent Study back into line with pre-pandemic norms. The proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158 are necessary to bring the policy back into alignment with current Independent Study legislation. SCUSD is also seeking to fulfil the requirement that the district has a plan in place to provide Independent Study to students within 10 days of an emergency school closure. The language in the revised policy is the first step toward this plan. This is a requirement for applying for a J-13A waiver.

Financial Considerations:

LCAP Goal(s):

Goal 2: Foundational Educational Experience with Equitable

Opportunities for ALL students Goal 3: Integrated Supports

Goal 5: Engagement/Empowerment

Goal 6: Implementation of MTSS/Data-Based Decision Making

Goal 8: Basic Services and Districtwide Operations/Supports

Goal 9: Focus on Students with Disabilities

Documents Attached: NA

1. Executive Summary

- Old Board Policy
 Redlined Board Policy
- 4. New Board Policy

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 min

Submitted by: Yvonne Wright, Chief Academic Officer

Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

Board of Education Executive Summary

Department: Academic Office

Title: Revision to Board Policy 6158-Independent Study

Date of Meeting: April 27, 2023



I. Overview/History of Department or Program

The SCSUD Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be met best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent Study classroom instruction is consistent with the district's curse of study and aligned to State content standards. Short-Term Independent Study can last for a duration of up to 14 days cumulative and can be administered at the school site with no extra duties required. Long-Term Independent Study is anything 15 days or more cumulative and requires synchronous instruction and live interaction as well as independent work. SCUSD uses Capital City School to facilitate Long-Term Independent Study.

II. Driving Governance:

Independent Study is governed by state Education Code sections 51744-51749.6. The Board voted to update Board Policy 6158 Independent Study in 2021 to bring it into alignment with the mandates in Assembly Bill (AB) 130 that changed the structure of Independent Study in California schools in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. New legislation, AB 181, brought Independent Study back into line with pre-pandemic norms. The proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158 are necessary to bring the policy back into alignment with current Independent Study legislation. Added language codifies the plan we have in place to provide Independent Study to students within 10 days of an emergency school closure. The language in the revised policy is the first step toward this plan. This is a requirement for applying for a J-13A waiver.

III. Budget:

The adoption of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158: Independent Study does not have any budget implications.

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The goals of independent study are to provide students whose needs may best be met through study outside of the regular classroom setting with access to standards-based instruction that will allow them to acquire the skills and knowledge outlined in the states content standards. The effectiveness of the Independent study program is measured by student performance as measured by the CA Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and indicators on the CA School Dashboard.

V. Major Initiatives:

In the introductory section these changes were made:

- Removal of obsolete citations following the second paragraph
- Removal of obsolete language in the third paragraph
- Removal of obsolete language in the fourth paragraph
- Additional language regarding emergency closures in a new seventh paragraph

Department 1

Board of Education Executive Summary

Department: Academic Office

Title: Revision to Board Policy 6158-Independent Study

Date of Meeting: April 27, 2023



General Independent Study Requirements

- Removal of an obsolete first paragraph
- Removal of obsolete citations following the second paragraph
- Additional language in a new second paragraph regarding minimum instructional hours
- Additional updated language added re: tiered engagement in the seventh paragraph and following enumerations
- Removal of an obsolete paragraph eleven
- Additional language regarding students exempted from division d) tiered reengagement procedures, e) opportunities for synchronous instruction and live interaction and f) transition plan to in-person instruction of EC sections 51747

Master Agreement

- Removal of an obsolete first paragraph
- Changes in citations following new paragraph one
- Removal of an obsolete paragraph following new paragraph one
- Removal of obsolete enumeration nine following the third paragraph
- Addition of language regarding requirements for students receiving Special Education services in enumeration ten following the third paragraph
- Removal of obsolete language from enumeration ten following the third paragraph

Course Based Independent Study

Removal of obsolete citations in enumerations six, eight, eleven and thirteen

Learning Agreement for Course-Based Study

- Addition of language regarding students receiving Special Education services in enumeration twelve
- Removal of obsolete language in enumeration twelve
- Removal of an obsolete language final paragraph

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

New language defining the conferencing taking place before independent study assignment

Records

A newly developed section with a new section heading and first paragraph

Program Evaluation

Removal of obsolete citations following the first paragraph

Department 2

Board of Education Executive Summary

Department: Academic Office

Title: Revision to Board Policy 6158-Independent Study

Date of Meeting: April 27, 2023



VI. Results:

The results of the revisions will be an updated policy that is aligned with current Independent Study legislation and Education Code and clearer guidance for implementation of Independent Study.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

The next steps in seeking approval for the proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158: Independent Study include the following:

- Present the policy revisions for a second reading on April 13, 2023
- Seek Board approval of the proposed revisions on May 4, 2023
- Update the administrative regulations for the policy to provide alignment and further guidance on policy implementation

Department 3

Policy 6158: Independent Study

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/16/1998 | Last Revised Date: 08/19/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 08/19/2021

Sacramento City USD Board Policy Independent Study

BP 6158 Instruction

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be met best 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 course(s) 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 on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part- 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, and an online course.

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(cf. 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization)
(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)
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A student's participation in independent study shall be voluntary. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

Independent study for each student shall be under the general supervision of a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Students' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51747.5)

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

General Independent Study Requirements

For the 2021-22 school year, the district shall offer independent study, as specified in Education Code 51745, to meet the educational needs of students unless the district has obtained a waiver. (Education Code 51745)

For the 2022-23 school year and thereafter, the Superintendent or designee may continue to offer and approve independent study for an individual student 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 the student would in the regular classroom setting.

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(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)
(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)
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Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be completed no more than one week after assigned for all grade levels and types of program. However, when necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due, up to the termination date of the agreement.

An evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study whenever the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or misses three assignments. Satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on all of the following indicators: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. The student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement specified in Education Code 52060
- 2. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments
- 3. Learning required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher
- 4. Progress towards successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study are provided with content aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to inperson instruction. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study for 15 school days or more receive the following throughout the school year: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. For students in grades transitional kindergarten and K-3, opportunities for daily synchronous instruction
- 2. For students in grades 4-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction
- 3. For students in grades 9-12, opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that procedures for tiered reengagement strategies are used for all students who are not generating attendance for more than three school days or 60 percent of the instructional days in a school week, or who are in violation of their written agreement. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more. The procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student
- 2. Notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation
- 3. A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary
- 4. A clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case later, than five instructional days. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written master agreement exists for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

The district shall provide written notice to the parents/guardians of all enrolled students of the option to enroll their child in in-person instruction or independent study during the 2021-22 school year. This notice shall be posted on the district's web site, and shall include, at a minimum, information about the right to request a student-parent-

educator conference before enrollment, student rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and reenrolling in independent study, and the instructional time, including synchronous and asynchronous learning, that a student will have access to as part of independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Upon the request of the parent/guardian of a student, before making a decision about enrolling or disenrolling in independent study and entering into a written agreement to do so, the district shall conduct a telephone, video conference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, or their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Master Agreement

For the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for three or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 11703)

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700, 11702)

- 1. The frequency, time, place and manner for submitting the student's assignments, reporting the student's academic progress, and communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding the student's academic progress
- 2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
- 3. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 4. A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study
- 5. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one school year
- 6. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion
- 7. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 8. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate
- 9. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

10. Before the commencement of independent study, the agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent/guardian or caregiver if the student is under age 18 years, the certificated employee responsible for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing

assistance to the student.

However, for the 2021-22 school year, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/ guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil, no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 51747)

The parent/guardian's signature on the agreement shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study.

Course-Based Independent Study

The district's course-based independent study program for students in grades K-12 shall be subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

- 1. A signed learning agreement shall be completed and on file for each participating student pursuant to Education Code 51749.6
- 2. Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold the appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district, charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of understanding to provide the instruction.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

- 3. Courses shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality and to provide intellectual challenge that is substantially equivalent to in-person, classroom-based instruction, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. The certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses. The certification shall also include plans to provide opportunities for students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 to receive daily synchronous instruction, for students in grades 4-8, to receive both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction, and for students in grades 9-12 to receive at least weekly synchronous instruction.
- 4. Students enrolled in independent study courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4, 47612, and 47612.1, and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, 47612, 48204, and 51747.3.
- 5. For each student participating in an independent study course, satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on the student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by their performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and student engagement set forth in Education Code 52060, completion of assignments, assessments, or other

indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments, learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

If satisfactory educational progress in an independent study class is not being made, the teacher shall notify the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian. The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether the student should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program. A written record of the evaluation findings shall be a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies shall be used for all students who are not making satisfactory

educational progress in one or more courses or who are in violation of the written learning agreement, as described in the section "Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study" below. These procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the verification of current contact information for each enrolled student, notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation, a plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary, and a clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

- 6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.
- 7. Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroom-based courses.

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

- 8. A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in the course-based independent study program.
- 9. The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.
- 10. For each student, the combined equivalent daily instructional minutes for courses in this program and all other courses shall meet applicable minimum instructional day requirements, and the student shall be offered the minimum annual total equivalent instructional minutes pursuant to Education Code 46200-46208.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar) (cf. 6112 - School Day)

- 11. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission to the University of California or California State University shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.
- 12. A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

- 13. A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that the student does not have the materials, equipment, or access to Internet connectivity necessary to participate in the course.
- 14. A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in course-based independent study, unless the student's individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.
- 15. A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based independent study.
- 16. The district shall maintain a plan to transition any student whose family wishes to return to in-person instruction from course-based independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days.

Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study

Before enrolling a student in a course within this program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51749.6)

- 1. A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5
- 2. The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to item #2 above

- 3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
- 4. The learning objectives and expectations for each course, including, but not limited to, a description of how satisfactory educational progress is measured and when a student evaluation is required to determine whether the student should remain in the course or be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program
- 5. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 6. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 7. A statement that enrollment is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. In the case of a student who is suspended or expelled, or who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the student through course-based independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.
- 8. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding a student's academic progress.
- 9. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
- 10. A statement of the adopted policies regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in course-based independent study.
- 11. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the learning agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.
- 12. Before the commencement of an independent study course, the learning agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent/guardian or caregiver, if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who has met the requirements of Family Code 6550-6552.

However, for the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the CDE. (Education Code 51749.6)

The student's or parent/guardian's signature shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

A student-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate including, but not limited to, as a reengagement

strategy and/or if requested by a parent/guardian prior to enrollment or disenrollment from independent study. (Education Code 51745.5, 51747, 51749.5)

Records for Audit Purposes

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that records are maintained for audit purposes. These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

- 1. A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study
- 2. A listing of the students, by grade level, program, and school, who have participated in independent study, along with the units of the curriculum attempted and completed by students in grades K-8 and the course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and adult education
- 3. A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's notations indicating that the teacher has personally evaluated the work or personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher
- 4. As appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, a daily or hourly attendance register that is separate from classroom attendance records, maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by the supervising teacher if they are two different persons
- 5. Appropriate documentation of compliance with the teacher-student ratios required by Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5 (Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5)
- 6. Appropriate documentation of compliance with the requirements pursuant to Education Code 51747.5 to ensure the coordination, evaluation, and supervision of the independent study of each student by a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300 (Education Code 51747.5)

The district shall document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction pursuant to Education Code 51747 on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which independent study is provided. A student who does not participate in independent study on a school day shall be documented as nonparticipatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

The Superintendent or designee also shall maintain a written or computer-based record such as a grade book or summary document of student engagement, for each class, of all grades, assignments, and assessments for each student for independent study assignments. (Education Code 51747.5)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

The signed, dated agreement, any supplemental agreement, assignment records, work samples, and attendance records may be maintained on file electronically. (Education Code 51747)

Program Evaluation

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. Based on the program evaluation, the Board and Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
17289 Exemption for building
41020 Audit guidelines
41976.2 Independent study programs; adult education funding
42238 Revenue limits

42238.05 Local control funding formula; average daily attendance

44865 Qualifications for home teachers and teachers in special classes and schools; consent to assignment

46200-46208 Instructional day and year

46300-46307.1 Methods of computing average daily attendance

46390-46393 Emergency average daily attendance

46600 Interdistrict attendance computation

47612-47612.1 Charter school operation

47612.5 Independent study in charter schools

48204 Residency

48206.3 Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities

48220 Classes of children exempted

48340 Improvement of pupil attendance

48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

48916.1 Educational program requirements for expelled students

48917 Suspension of expulsion order

49011 Student fees

51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation

51745-51749.6 Independent study programs

52060 Local control and accountability plan

52522 Adult education alternative instructional delivery

52523 Adult education as supplement to high school curriculum; criteria 56026 Individual with exceptional needs

58500-58512 Alternative schools and programs of choice

FAMILY CODE

6550 Authorization affidavits

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11700-11703 Independent study

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301 Highly qualified teachers

6311 State plans

COURT DECISIONS

Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004) 123 Cal.App.4th 1365

Management Resources:

Elements of Exemplary Independent Study

California Digital Learning Integration and Standards Guidance, April 2021

EDUCATION AUDIT APPEALS PANEL PUBLICATIONS

Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting

WEB SITES

California Consortium for Independent Study: http://www.ccis.org

California Department of Education, Independent Study: http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/is

Education Audit Appeals Panel: http://www.eaap.ca.gov

Policy SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: November 16, 1998 Sacramento, California

revised: April 15, 2002 revised: August 19, 2021 Board Policy Manual Sacramento City Unified School District

Policy 6158: Independent Study

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2005 | Last Revised Date: 12/01/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 12/01/2021

Sacramento City USD Board Policy Independent Study

BP 6158 Instruction

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be met-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 course(s) 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 on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis and in conjunction with part- 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, and an online course.

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter-School Authorization) (cf. 6181 - Alternative-Schools/Programs-of Choice)

A student's Except for students who, during the 2021-2022 school year, cannot participate in classroom-based instruction due to quarantine or school closure for exposure to or infection with COVID-19, student pParticipation in independent study shall be voluntary. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5, 51749.6)

Independent study for each student shall be under the general supervision of a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Students' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51747.5)

Will the exception of students who, during the 2021-2022 school year, cannot participate in classroombased instruction due to a quarantine or school closure for exposure to or infection with COVID_19. The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be three consecutive school days. (Education Code 51747)

Education Code section 51745(c) states that a student with an IEP may participate in independent study if the student's IEP specifically provides for that participation.

In accordance with Education Code 26393 in the event of an emergency school closure, Independent Study will be offered to students within 10 days of the first day of a school closure.

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General Independent Study Requirements

For the 2021-22 school year, the district shall offer independent study, as specified in Education Code 51745, to meet the educational needs of students unless the district has obtained a waiver. (Education Code 51745)

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For the 2022-23 school year and thereafter, the Superintendent or designee may continue to offer and approve independent study for an individual student 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 the student would in the regular classroom setting.

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(cf. 5147 – Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6011 – Academic Standards)
(cf. 6143 – Courses of Study)
(cf. 6146.1 – High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.11 – Alternative Credits Toward-Graduation)
(cf. 6172 – Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6200 – Adult Education)
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The minimum instructional minutes for students participating in independent study shall be the same as required for their peers at the school who are receiving in-person instruction, except as otherwise permitted by law. (Education Code 46100)

Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be completed no more than one week after assigned for all grade levels and types of program. However, When necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due, up-to, However, in no event shall the due date of an assignment be extended beyond the termination date of the agreement.

An evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study whenever the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or misses three assignments. Satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on all of the following indicators: (Education Code 51747)

The student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement specified in Education Code 52060

 The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments

- Learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher
- Progress towards successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study are provided with content aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study for 15 school days or more receive the following while engaging in independent study, throughout the school year: (Education Code 51747)

1.

4. For students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and K-grades 1 to 3, opportunities for daily synchronous instruction

2.

2. For students in grades 4-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction

3.

3. For students in grades 9-12, opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that procedures for the tiered reengagement strategies below are used for all students whe participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or

 Are not generating attendance for more than three school days or 50 percent of the instructional days in a school week, or who 10 percent of required minimum instructional time over four continuous weeks of the district's approved instructional calendar.

- Are found to be not participatory pursuant to Section 51747.5 for more than the greater of three school days or 60 percent of the scheduled days of synchronous instruction in a school month as applicable by grade span.
- 3. Are in violation of their written agreement. This requirement only applies to students participating

<u>Tiered reengagement strategies procedures used in district</u> independent study program for 15 school days or more. The procedures programs shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747)

1.

more who: (Education Code 51747)

Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student

 Notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence recording of a non-attendance day or lack of participation

 A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary

4. —A clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's
written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's
achievement and well-being

For students participating in independent study for 15 days or more, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case later than five instructional days. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15-school days or more. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written master agreement exists for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

The district shall provide written notice to the parents/guardians of all enrolled students of the option to enroll their child in in-person instruction or independent study during the 2021-22 school year. This notice shall be posted on the district's web site, and shall include, at a minimum, information about the

right to request a student-parent-educator conference before enrollment, student rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and reenrolling in independent study, and the instructional time, including synchronous and asynchronous learning, that a student will have access to as part of independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Upon the request of the parent/guardian of a student, <u>and</u> before <u>making a decision about enrolling or disenrolling in independent study and entering into signing</u> a written agreement to do so as described <u>below in the section "Master Agreement,"</u> the district shall conduct a telephone, <u>video conference video conference</u>, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, <u>orand</u>, <u>if requested</u>, their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Students are exempted from subdivision d) tiered reengagement procedures, e) opportunities for synchronous instruction and live interaction and f) transition plan to in-person instruction of EC sections 51747 if the following conditions are met:

- The student participates in independent study for fewer than 15 cumulative school days in a school year, or
- The student is enrolled in a comprehensive school for classroom-based instruction and under the care of appropriately licensed professionals, participating in independent study due to necessary medical treatments or inpatient treatment for mental health care or substance abuse.

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Master Agreement

For the 2021-22-school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study no later than 30-days after the first day of instruction.

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for three or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 41703) (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 11703)

However, for the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement from each student participating in an independent study program for any length of time, no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction in the independent study program.

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700, 11702)

1.

The frequency, time, place and manner for submitting the student's assignments, reporting the student's academic progress, and communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding the student's academic progress

- 2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
- The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 4. 4.—A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number

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of missed assignments which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study

- The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one school year
- A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other
 measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the
 student upon completion
- 7. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 8. 8. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate
 - 9. For the 2021-22 school year, this statement shall not be required for a student's participation in independent study if the student is unable to attend in person instruction because of a quarantine or school closure mandated by a local or state health order or guidance due to the student's exposure to or infection with COVID-19.
- 8.9. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction

<u>0.</u>

(cf. 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion/Due-Process)

40. Before the commencement of independent study, the agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent or/guardian-or caregiver (if the student is under age 18 years), the certificated employee designated as having responsibilityle for the general supervision of the independent study program, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. In addition, a student with an active IEP will require the review and signature of a certificated or licensed member of their Special Education Individual Education Plan (IEP) support team on the written agreement.

Parents should be reminded of their consent rights pursuant to 34 CFR section 300,300, including the right to refuse consent to placement related services or the entire IEP.

However, for the 2021-22 school year, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupilstudent, no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

in the independent study program or October 15, whichever date comes later.

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Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 51747)

The parent/guardian's signature on the agreement shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study.

Course-Based Independent Study

The district's course-based independent study program for students in grades <u>T</u>K-12 shall be subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

- 1.
- 4.——A signed learning agreement shall be completed and on file for each participating student, pursuant to Education Code 51749.6
- Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold
 the appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district,
 charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of
 understanding to provide the instruction.
- (cf. 4112.2 Cortification)
 - 3.—Courses shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality and to provide intellectual challenge that is substantially equivalent to inperson, classroom-based instruction, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. The certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses. The certification shall also include plans to provide opportunities throughout the school year, for students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 to receive daily synchronous instruction, for students in grades 4-8, to receive both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction.
- 4. -
 - 4. —Students enrolled in independent study courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4, 47612, and 47612.1, and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, 47612, 48204, and 51747.3.
- 5. For each student participating in an independent study course, satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on the student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by their performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and student engagement set forth in Education Code 52060, completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments, learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

If satisfactory educational progress in an independent study class is not being made, the teacher shall notify the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian. The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether the student should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program. A written record of the evaluation

findings shall be a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies (as listed above in section XX?) shall be used for all students who are not making satisfactory educational progress in one or more courses or who are in violation of the written learning agreement, as described in the section "Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study" below. These procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the verification of current contact information for each enrolled student, notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation, a plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary, and a clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being.

6. (cf. 5125 - Student Records)

6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.

 Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroom-based courses.

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

8. —A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in the course-based independent study program.

 The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.

11. (of: 6111 – School Calendar) (cf: 6112 – School Day)

11. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission to the University of California or California State University shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.

 A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

13. (cf. 3260 - Foes and Charges)

43.— A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that the student does not have the materials, equipment, or access to Internet connectivity necessary to participate in the course.

14. 44.—A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in course-based independent study, unless the student's individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.
 15. A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based independent study.
16. 16. —The district shall maintain a plan to transition any student whose family wishes to return to in-person instruction from course-based independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days.
Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study
Before enrolling a student in a course within this program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51749.6)
f _e
 A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5
 The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to item #2 above
3. 3 of the Course-Based Independent Study section above
2-3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
3.4
 4.5. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
 5.6. 6. — A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
7. A statement that enrollment is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. In the case of a student who is suspended or expelled, or who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the student through course-based independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.

- 7-8.
 The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding a student's academic progress.
- 9. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
- 9-10.

 40.

 A statement of the adopted policies regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in course-based independent study.
- 11. _____A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the learning agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.
- 12. For 2022-23 school year and thereafter, before the commencement of an independent study course, the learning agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, and by the student's parent or/guardian or caregiver, (if the student is less than 18 years of age), the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study program, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who have met the requirements of Family Code 6550 6552. In addition, a student with an active IEP will require the review and signature of a certificated or licensed member of their Special Education Individual Education Plan (IEP) team on the written agreement.

Parents should be reminded of their consent rights pursuant to 34 CFR section 300.300, including the right to refuse consent to placement related services or the entire IEP.

However, For the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the CDE. (Education Code 51749.6)

The student's or

A signed learning agreement from a parent/guardian's signatureguardian of a student who is less than 18 years of age shall constitute the parent/guardian's permission for the student to receive instruction through course-based independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

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Upon the request of a student's parent/guardian, and before signing a written agreement as described above, the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference, or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, or their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

A student-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate including, but not limited to, as a reengagement strategy and/or, if requested by a parent/guardian, prior to enrollment or disenrollment from independent study. (Education Code 51745.5, 51747, 51749.5)

Records

for Audit Purposes

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that records are maintained for audit purposes.

These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

1.

4. —A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study

2.

A listing of the students, by grade level, program, and school, who have participated in independent study, along with the units of the curriculum attempted and completed by students in grades K-8 and the course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and adult education

3

A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's notations indicating that the teacher has personally evaluated the work or personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher

4

4. As appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, a daily or hourly attendance register that is separate from classroom attendance records, maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by the supervising teacher if they are two different persons

5.

 Appropriate documentation of compliance with the teacher-student ratios required by Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5 (Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5)

6.

6. Appropriate documentation of compliance with the requirements pursuant to Education Code 51747.5 to ensure the coordination, evaluation, and supervision of the independent study of each student by a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300 (Education Code 51747.5)

The district shall document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction pursuant to Education Code 51747 on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which live interaction or synchronous instruction is provided as part of the independent study is provided program. A student who does not participate in independent study on a school dayscheduled live interaction or synchronous instruction shall be documented as non-participatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

Commented [4]: @wikerk@scusd.edu _Assigned to Karen Wiker_

Commented [5R4]: _Marked as done_

Commented [6R4]: _Re-opened_ I believe this should be 51749.5 - only section in the ind study Ed Code section record retention mentioned The Superintendent or designee also shall also maintain a written or computer-based record such as a grade book or summary document of student engagement, for each class, of all grades, assignments, and assessments for each student for independent study assignments. (Education Code 51747.5)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

The signed, dated agreement, any supplemental agreement, assignment records, work samples, and attendance records may be maintained on file electronically. (Education Code 51747)

Program Evaluation

COURT DECISIONS

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. Based on the program evaluation, the Board and Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

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(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 5121 Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student-Assessment)
Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
17289 Exemption for building
41020 Audit-guidelines
41976.2 Independent study programs; adult education funding
42238 Revenue limits
42238.05 Local control funding formula; average daily attendance
44865 Qualifications for home teachers and teachers in special classes and schools; consent to
46200-46208 Instructional day and year
46300-46307.1 Methods of computing average daily attendance
46390-46393 Emergency average daily attendance
46600 Interdistrict-attendance computation
47612-47612.1 Charter school operation
47612.5 Independent study in charter schools
48204 Residency
48206.3 Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities
48220 Classes of children exempted
48340 Improvement of pupil-attendance
48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances
48916.1 Educational program requirements for expelled students
48917-Suspension of expulsion-order
49011 Student fees
51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation
51745-51749.6 Independent study programs
52060 Local control and accountability plan
52522 Adult education alternative instructional delivery
52523 Adult education as supplement to high school-curriculum; criteria56026 Individual with
exceptional needs
58500-58512 Alternative schools and programs of choice
FAMILY CODE
6550 Authorization affidavits
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
11700-11703 Independent study
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
6301-Highly qualified teachers
6311 State plans
```

Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004) 123 Cal. App. 4th 1365

Management-Resources:

Elements of Exemplary Independent Study

California Digital Learning Integration and Standards Guidance, April 2021

EDUCATION AUDIT APPEALS PANEL PUBLICATIONS

Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting

WEB SITES

California-Consortium for Independent Study: http://www.ccis.org

California-Department of Education, Independent Study: http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/is

Education Audit Appeals Panel: http://www.eaap.ca.gev

Pelicy SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT adopted: November 16, 1998 Sacramento, California

revised: April 15, 2002 revised: August 19, 2021

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State 5 CCR 11700-11705	Description Independent study
Ed. Code 17289	Exemption for facilities
Ed. Code 41020	Requirement for annual audit
Ed. Code 41422	Apportionment credit for student inability to attend in-person or school closure due to COVID-19
Ed. Code 41976.2	Independent study programs; adult education funding
Ed. Code 42238	Revenue limits
Ed. Code 42238.05	Local control funding formula; average daily attendance
Ed. Code 44865	Qualifications for home teachers
Ed. Code 46100	Length of school day
Ed. Code 46200-46208	Incentives for longer instructional day and year
Ed. Code 46300-46307.1	Methods of computing average daily attendance
Ed. Code 46390-46393	Emergency average daily attendance
Ed. Code 46600	Interdistrict attendance computation
Ed. Code 47612-47612.1	Charter School Operation
Ed. Code 47612.5	Charter schools operations, general requirements
Ed. Code 48204	Residency requirements for school attendance
Ed. Code 48206.3	Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities
Ed. Code 48220	Classes of children exempted

Ed. Code 48340 Improvement of pupil attendance Ed. Code 48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

Ed. Code 48916.1 Educational program requirements for expelled students

Ed. Code 48917 Suspension of expulsion order

Ed. Code 49011 Student fees

Ed. Code 51225.3 High school graduation

Ed. Code 51745-51749.6 Independent study

Ed. Code 52060 Local Control and Accountability Plan

Ed. Code 52522 Adult education alternative instructional delivery

Ed. Code 52523 Adult education as supplement to high school curriculum;

Conducting Individualized Determinations of Need, 2021

Clarifications for Student Learning in Quarantine, 2021

California Digital Learning Integration and Standards

Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel,

Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies

California Department of Education, Independent Study

2021-22 AA & IT Independent Study FAQs, 2021

Elements of Exemplary Independent Study

California Consortium for Independent Study

Ed. Code 56026 Individual with exceptional needs

Ed. Code 58500-58512 Alternative schools and programs of choice

Fam. Code 6550-6552 Caregivers

Federal Description

20 USC 6301 Highly qualified teachers

20 USC 6311 State plan

Management Resources Description Legal Requirements for Independent Study, 2021

California Department of Education

Publication

California Department of Education

Publication

California Department of Education

Publication

California Department of Education

Publication

California Department of Education

Publication

California Department of Education

Publication

Court Decision

Education Audit Appeals Panel

Publication

Website

Website

Website

Cross References

Code

Description

0410 Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities

Guidance, April 2021

(2004) 123 Cal.App.4th 1365

and State Compliance Reporting

Education Audit Appeals Panel

0420.4 Charter School Authorization 0420.4 Charter School Authorization

0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan	
0500	<u>Accountability</u>	
3260	Fees And Charges	
3260	Fees And Charges	
3516.5	Emergency Schedules	
3580	District Records	
3580	District Records	
4112.2	Certification	
4112.2	Certification	
4131	Staff Development	
5111.1	District Residency	
5111.1	District Residency	
5112.3	Student Leave Of Absence	
5112.3	Student Leave Of Absence	
5113	Absences And Excuses	
5113	Absences And Excuses	
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy	
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy	
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement	
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement	
5125	Student Records	
5125	Student Records	
5126	Awards For Achievement	
5126	Awards For Achievement	
5141.22	Infectious Diseases	
5141.22	Infectious Diseases	
5141.31	<u>Immunizations</u>	
5141.31	<u>Immunizations</u>	
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process	
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process	
5146	Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students	
5147	Dropout Prevention	
6000	Concepts And Roles	
6011	Academic Standards	
6111	School Calendar	
6112	School Day	
		

6112	School Day
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6152	Class Assignment
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6162.5	Student Assessment
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6183	Home And Hospital Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
6185	Community Day School
6185	Community Day School
6200	Adult Education
6200	Adult Education

Status: ADOPTED

Policy 6158: Independent Study

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2005 | Last Revised Date: 12/01/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 12/01/2021

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for 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 course(s) 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 on a full-time or part-time basis and in conjunction with part- 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, and an online course.

Participation in independent study shall be voluntary. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5, 51749.6)

Independent study for each student shall be under the general supervision of a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Students' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51747.5)

The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be three consecutive school days. (Education Code 51747)

Education Code section 51745(c) states that a student with an IEP may participate in independent study if the student's IEP specifically provides for that participation.

In accordance with Education Code 26393 in the event of an emergency school closure, Independent Study will be offered to students within 10 days of the first day of a school closure.

General Independent Study Requirements

For the 2022-23 school year and thereafter, the Superintendent or designee may offer and approve independent study for an individual student 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 the student would in the regular classroom setting.

The minimum instructional minutes for students participating in independent study shall be the same as required for their peers at the school who are receiving in-person instruction, except as otherwise permitted by law. (Education Code 46100)

Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be completed no more than one week after assigned for all grade levels and types of program. When necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due. However, in no event shall the due date of an assignment be extended beyond the termination date of the agreement.

An evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study whenever the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or misses three assignments. Satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on all of the following indicators: (Education Code 51747)

- The student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement specified in Education Code 52060
- 2. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments
- 3. Learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher
- 4. Progress towards successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study are provided with content aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study for 15 school days or more receive the following while engaging in independent study: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. For students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 3, opportunities for daily synchronous instruction
- 2. For students in grades 4-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction
- 3. For students in grades 9-12, opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that procedures for the tiered reengagement strategies below are used for all students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more who: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. Are not generating attendance for more than three school days or 50 percent of the instructional days in a school week, or 10 percent of required minimum instructional time over four continuous weeks of the district's approved instructional calendar.
- 2. Are found to be not participatory pursuant to Section 51747.5 for more than the greater of three school days or 60 percent of the scheduled days of synchronous instruction in a school month as applicable by grade span.
- 3. Are in violation of their written agreement

Tiered reengagement strategies procedures used in district independent study programs shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student
- 2. Notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the recording of a non-attendance day or lack of participation
- 3. A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary

4. A clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being

For students participating in independent study for 15 days or more, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case later than five instructional days. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written master agreement exists for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

Upon the request of the parent/guardian of a student, and before signing a written agreement as described below in the section "Master Agreement," the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, and, if requested, their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Students are exempted from subdivision d) tiered reengagement procedures, e) opportunities for synchronous instruction and live interaction and f) transition plan to in-person instruction of EC sections 51747 if the following conditions are met:

- 1. The student participates in independent study for fewer than 15 cumulative school days in a school year, or
- The student is enrolled in a comprehensive school for classroom-based instruction and under the care of appropriately licensed professionals, participating in independent study due to necessary medical treatments or inpatient treatment for mental health care or substance abuse.

Master Agreement

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for three or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 11703)

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700, 11702)

- 1. The frequency, time, place and manner for submitting the student's assignments, reporting the student's academic progress, and communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding the student's academic progress
- 2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
- The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 4. A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study
- 5. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one

school year

- A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion
- 7. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 8. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate
- 9. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction

Before the commencement of independent study, the agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent or guardian (if the student is under age 18 years), the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study program, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable.

Parents should be reminded of their consent rights pursuant to 34 CFR section 300.300, including the right to refuse consent to placement related services or the entire IEP.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 51747)

The parent/guardian's signature on the agreement shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study.

Course-Based Independent Study

The district's course-based independent study program for students in grades TK-12 shall be subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

- 1. A signed learning agreement shall be completed and on file for each participating student, pursuant to Education Code 51749.6
- Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold the
 appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district,
 charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of
 understanding to provide the instruction.
- 3. Courses shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality and to provide intellectual challenge that is substantially equivalent to in-person, classroom-based instruction, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. The certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses. The certification shall also include plans to provide opportunities throughout the school year, for students in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 to receive daily synchronous instruction, for students

in grades 4-8, to receive both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction, and for students in grades 9-12 to receive at least weekly synchronous instruction.

- 4. Students enrolled in independent study courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4, 47612, and 47612.1, and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, 47612, 48204, and 51747.3.
- 5. For each student participating in an independent study course, satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on the student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by their performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and student engagement set forth in Education Code 52060, completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments, learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

If satisfactory educational progress in an independent study class is not being made, the teacher shall notify the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian. The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether the student should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program. A written record of the evaluation findings shall be a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies (as listed above) shall be used for all students who are not making satisfactory educational progress in one or more courses or who are in violation of the written learning agreement, as described in the section "Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study" below. These procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the verification of current contact information for each enrolled student, notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation, a plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary, and a clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being.

- 6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.
- 7. Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroom-based courses.
- 8. A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in the course-based independent study program.
- The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.
- 10. For each student, the combined equivalent daily instructional minutes for courses in this program and all other courses shall meet applicable minimum instructional day requirements, and the student shall be offered the minimum annual total equivalent instructional minutes pursuant to Education Code 46200-46208.
- 11. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission to the University of California or California State University shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.
- 12. A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

- 13. A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that the student does not have the materials, equipment, or access to Internet connectivity necessary to participate in the course.
- 14. A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in course-based independent study, unless the student's individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.
- 15. A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based independent study.
- 16. The district shall maintain a plan to transition any student whose family wishes to return to inperson instruction from course-based independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days.

Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study

Before enrolling a student in a course within this program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51749.6)

- 1. A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5
- 2. The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to item #3 of the Course-Based Independent Study section above
- 3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
- 4. The learning objectives and expectations for each course, including, but not limited to, a description of how satisfactory educational progress is measured and when a student evaluation is required to determine whether the student should remain in the course or be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program
- 5. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 6. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 7. A statement that enrollment is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. In the case of a student who is suspended or expelled, or who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the student through course-based independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.
- 8. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding a student's academic progress.
- 9. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.

- 10. A statement of the adopted policies regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in course-based independent study.
- 11. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the learning agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.
- 12. For 2022-23 school year and thereafter, before the commencement of an independent study course, the learning agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, parent or guardian (if the student is less than 18 years of age), the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study program, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable.

Parents should be reminded of their consent rights pursuant to 34 CFR section 300.300, including the right to refuse consent to placement related services or the entire IEP.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the CDE. (Education Code 51749.6)

A signed learning agreement from a parent/guardian of a student who is less than 18 years of age shall constitute the parent/guardian's permission for the student to receive instruction through course-based independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

Upon the request of a student's parent/guardian, and before signing a written agreement as described above, the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference, or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, or their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

A student-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate including, but not limited to, as a reengagement strategy and/or, if requested by a parent/guardian, prior to enrollment or disenrollment from independent study. (Education Code 51745.5, 51747, 51749.5)

Records

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)

These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

- A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study
- A listing of the students, by grade level, program, and school, who have participated in independent study, along with the units of the curriculum attempted and completed by students in grades K-8 and the course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and adult education
- 3. A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's notations indicating that the teacher has personally evaluated the work or personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher
- 4. As appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, a daily or hourly attendance register that is separate from classroom attendance records, maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by

the supervising teacher if they are two different persons

- 5. Appropriate documentation of compliance with the teacher-student ratios required by Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5 (Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5)
- Appropriate documentation of compliance with the requirements pursuant to Education Code 51747.5 to ensure the coordination, evaluation, and supervision of the independent study of each student by a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300 (Education Code 51747.5)

The district shall document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction pursuant to Education Code 51747 on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which live interaction or synchronous instruction is provided as part of the independent study program. A student who does not participate in scheduled live interaction or synchronous instruction shall be documented as non-participatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall also maintain a written or computer-based record such as a grade book or summary document of student engagement, for each class, of all grades, assignments, and assessments for each student for independent study assignments. (Education Code 51747.5)

The signed, dated agreement, any supplemental agreement, assignment records, work samples, and attendance records may be maintained on file electronically. (Education Code 51747)

Program Evaluation

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. Based on the program evaluation, the Board and Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State 5 CCR 11700-11705	Description Independent study
Ed. Code 17289	Exemption for facilities
Ed. Code 41020	Requirement for annual audit
Ed. Code 41422	Apportionment credit for student inability to attend in-person or school closure due to COVID-19
Ed. Code 41976.2	Independent study programs; adult education funding
Ed. Code 42238	Revenue limits
Ed. Code 42238.05	Local control funding formula; average daily attendance
Ed. Code 44865	Qualifications for home teachers
Ed. Code 46100	Length of school day
Ed. Code 46200-46208	Incentives for longer instructional day and year

Ed. Code 46300-46307.1	Methods of computing average daily attendance
Ed. Code 46390-46393	Emergency average daily attendance
Ed. Code 46600	Interdistrict attendance computation
Ed. Code 47612-47612.1	Charter School Operation
Ed. Code 47612.5	Charter schools operations, general requirements
Ed. Code 48204	Residency requirements for school attendance
Ed. Code 48206.3	Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities
Ed. Code 48220	Classes of children exempted
Ed. Code 48340	Improvement of pupil attendance
Ed. Code 48915	Expulsion; particular circumstances
Ed. Code 48916.1	Educational program requirements for expelled students
Ed. Code 48917	Suspension of expulsion order
Ed. Code 49011	Student fees
Ed. Code 51225.3	High school graduation
Ed. Code 51745-51749.6	Independent study
Ed. Code 52060	Local Control and Accountability Plan
Ed. Code 52522	Adult education alternative instructional delivery
Ed. Code 52523	Adult education as supplement to high school curriculum; criteria
Ed. Code 56026	Individual with exceptional needs
Ed. Code 58500-58512	Alternative schools and programs of choice
Fam. Code 6550-6552	Caregivers
Federal 20 USC 6301	Description Highly qualified teachers
20 USC 6311	State plan
Management Resources California Department of Education Publication	Description Legal Requirements for Independent Study, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	Conducting Individualized Determinations of Need, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	Clarifications for Student Learning in Quarantine, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	2021-22 AA & IT Independent Study FAQs, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	California Digital Learning Integration and Standards Guidance, April 2021
California Department of Education Publication	Elements of Exemplary Independent Study
Court Decision	Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004) 123 Cal.App.4th 1365

Education Audit Appeals Panel

Publication

Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies

and State Compliance Reporting

Website

California Consortium for Independent Study

Website

California Department of Education, Independent Study

Website

Education Audit Appeals Panel

Cross References

Code Description

0410 <u>Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities</u>

0420.4 <u>Charter School Authorization</u>
0420.4 Charter School Authorization

0470 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

0500 <u>Accountability</u>

3260 <u>Fees And Charges</u>

3260 <u>Fees And Charges</u>

3516.5 <u>Emergency Schedules</u>

3580 <u>District Records</u>

3580 <u>District Records</u>

4112.2 <u>Certification</u>

4112.2 <u>Certification</u>

4131 <u>Staff Development</u>

5111.1 <u>District Residency</u>

5111.1 District Residency

5112.3 <u>Student Leave Of Absence</u>

5112.3 <u>Student Leave Of Absence</u>

5113 <u>Absences And Excuses</u>

5113 <u>Absences And Excuses</u>

5113.1 Chronic Absence And Truancy

5113.1 Chronic Absence And Truancy

5121 <u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u>

5121 <u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u>

5125 <u>Student Records</u>

5125 <u>Student Records</u>

5126 <u>Awards For Achievement</u>

5126 <u>Awards For Achievement</u>

5141.22 <u>Infectious Diseases</u>

5141.22 <u>Infectious Diseases</u>

5141.31	<u>Immunizations</u>
5141.31	<u>Immunizations</u>
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5146	Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students
5147	Dropout Prevention
6000	Concepts And Roles
6011	Academic Standards
6111	School Calendar
6112	School Day
6112	School Day
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6152	Class Assignment
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6162.5	Student Assessment
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6183	Home And Hospital Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
6185	Community Day School
6185	Community Day School
6200	Adult Education

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE OF ATTENDANCE DUE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

FORM J-13A, REVISED DECEMBER 2017

SECTION A: REQUEST INFORMATION

- This form is used to obtain approval of attendance and instructional time credit pursuant to Education Code (EC) sections 41422, 46200, 46391, 46392 and California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 5, Section 428.
- Only schools that report Principal Apportionment average daily attendance (ADA) for the purpose of calculating a K–12 Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) entitlement should submit this form.
- Refer to the instructions and frequently asked questions at https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/j13a.asp for information regarding the completion of this form.

PART I: LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY (LEA)							
LEA NAME:				COUNTY CODE:	DISTRICT CODE:	CHARTER NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE):	
LEA SUPERINTENDENT OR ADMINISTRATOR NAME:						FISCAL YEAR:	
ADDRESS:					COUNTY NAME:		
CITY:				STATE:		ZIP CODE:	
CONTACT NAME:	TITLE:		PHONE:		E-MAIL:		
PART II: LEA TYPE AND SCHOOL SITE INFORMATION AI	PPLICABLE T	O THIS REQUEST (Choose only or	ne LEA type):				
□ SCHOOL DISTRICT □ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION Choose one of the following: □ All cose one of the following: □ All district school sites □ All COE school sites □ Select district school sites □ Select COE school sites			<u> </u>		☐ CHARTER SCHOOL		
PART III: CONDITION(S) APPLICABLE TO THIS REQUEST	:						
□ SCHOOL CLOSURE: When one or more schools were school(s) without regard to the fact that the school(s) were ADA (per EC Section 41422) without applicable penalty a 46200, et seq. □ There was a Declaration of a State of Emergency by	e closed on th and obtain crea	e dates listed, due to the nature o dit for instructional time for the day	of the emergency. Ap ys and the instruction	proval of this reques al minutes that woul	t authorizes the LEA to dis	regard these days in the computation of	
☐ MATERIAL DECREASE: When one or more schools we include all school sites within the school district must demon district must show that each site included in the request expeattendance for actual days of attendance is in accordance apportionments for the described school(s) and dates in S ☐ There was a Declaration of a State of Emergency by	strate that the erienced a mage with the provection C during	school district as a whole experience terial decrease in attendance pursual sisions of EC Section 46392. Appropriate which school attendance was market.	ced a material decrease ant to EC Section 463 aval of this request winaterially decreased of	se in attendance. Mat 92 and <i>CCR</i> , Title 5, Il authorize use of th due to the nature of t	erial decrease requests for on Section 428. The request for e estimated days of attenda	one or more but not all sites within the school or substitution of estimated days of	
□ LOST OR DESTROYED ATTENDANCE RECORDS: We cannot be verified due to the loss or destruction of attendance "Whenever any attendance records of any district has shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Superintendance Public Instruction shall estimate the average daily at making of apportionments to the school district from	ance records. The been lost of Bent of Public of Tendance of s	This request is made pursuant to or destroyed, making it impossible instruction by the affidavits of the i uch district. The estimated averag	EC Section 46391: for an accurate repo	ort on average daily a erning board of the d	attendance for the district for istrict and the county super	or any fiscal year to be rendered, which fact rintendent of schools, the Superintendent of	

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE OF ATTENDANCE DUE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS FORM J-13A, REVISED DECEMBER 2017

SECTION B: SCHOOL CLOSURE							Not Applicable (Proceed	to Section C)
PART I: NATURE OF EMERGENCY (Describe in detail.)							Supplemental Page(s)	Attached
PART II: SCHOOL INFORMATION (Use the supplemental Exc multiple school sites, and the sites have differing school calend	el form at <u>https</u> ars, attach a co	s://www.cde.c	a.gov/fg/aa/pa/j13a ifferent school cale	nasp if more than endar to the reque	10 lines are nee est.)	eded for this request. Attach a cop	y of a school calendar. If the	e request is for
A	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	
School Name	School Code	Site Type	Days in School Calendar	Emergency Days Built In	Built In Emergend Days Used	Date(s) of Emergency Closure	Closure Dates Requested	Total Number of Days Requested
PART III: CLOSURE HISTORY (List closure history for all scho	l ools in Part II. F	L Refer to the i	nstructions for an	example.)				
A	В	C	istractions for an	D D		Е		F
School Name	School Code	Fiscal Year		Closure Dates		Natu	ıro	Weather Related
School Name	School code	riscai reai		Closure Dates		rvaic		Yes/No

FORM J-13A,	REVISED	DECEMBER	2017

SECTION C: MATERIAL DECREASE						lot Applicable (F	Proceed to Section D)
PART I: NATURE OF EMERGENCY (Describe in detail	.)					Supplemental Pa	ge(s) Attached
PART II: MATERIAL DECREASE CALCULATION (Use	e the supplemental Exce	I file at https://www.cde.ca.c	nov/fg/aa/pa/i13a asp if more th	han 10 lines are nee	eded for this reque	st. Refer to the ins	tructions for information
on completing the form including the definition of "normal	ıl" attendance.)				·		
A	В	С	D	E	F	G*	Н
School Name	School Code	"Normal" Attendance (October/May)	Dates Used for Determining "Normal" Attendance	Date of Emergency	Actual Attendance	Qualifier: 90% or Less (F/C)	Net Increase of Apportionment Days (C-F)
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
			-			0.00%	0.00
	Total:	0.00			0		0.00
PART III: MATERIAL DECREASE CALCULATION FOR lines are needed for this request. Refer to the instruction					e at https://www.cde	.ca.gov/fg/aa/pa/j13	Ba.asp if more than 5
A	В	С	D	E	F	G*	Н
School Name	School Code	"Normal" Attendance Hours	Date Used for Determining "Normal" Attendance	Date of Emergency	Actual Attendance Hours	Qualifier: 90% or Less (F/C)	Net Increase of Hours (C-F)
						0.00%	0.00
						0.00%	0.00
						0.00%	0.00
						0.00%	0.00

Total:

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00%

0.00

^{*}Qualifier should be 90% or less except when the governor declares a state of emergency or in the case of a Necessary Small School (NSS) site.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE OF ATTENDANCE DUE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS FORM J-13A, REVISED DECEMBER 2017

SECTION D: LOST OR DESTROYED ATTENDANCE RECORDS	☐ Not Applicable (Proceed to Section E)
PART I: PERIOD OF REQUEST The entire period covered by the lost or destroyed records commences with up to and including	·
PART II: CIRCUMSTANCES (Describe below circumstances and extent of records lost or destroyed.)	
PART III: PROPOSAL (Describe below the proposal to reconstruct attendance records or estimate attendance in the absence of records.)	

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE OF ATTENDANCE DUE TO EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

FORM J-13A, REVISED DECEMBER 2017

PART I: AFFIDAVIT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF				
We, members constituting a majority of the governing board of		, hereby swear (or affirm) that the f	0 0	ed on official records.
Board Members	<u>Names</u>		Board Members Signatures	
		_		
		_		
At least a majority of the members of the governing board	shall execute this affidavit.			
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) before me, this	day of	·		
Withous		Т:н.	-f	Causely California
Witness:(Name)	(Signature)	Hue:	of	County, California
PART II: APPROVAL BY SUPERINTENDENT OF CHART	ER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER (Only applicable to ch	harter school requests)		
Superintendent (or designee): (Name)	(Cinnal		g LEA Name:	
(Name)	(Signati			
PART III: AFFIDAVIT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT O	F SCHOOLS			
The information and statements contained in the foregoing requ	uest are true and correct to the best of my knowledge	e and belief.		
County Superintendent of Schools (or designee):				
	(Name)		(Signature)	
Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) before me, this	day of	·		
Witness:		Title:	of	County, California
(Name)	(Signature)			
$\label{lem:coeff} \mbox{COE contact/individual responsible for completing this section:} \\$				
Name:	itle:	Phone:	E-mail:	

Jesse M. Castillo

To: Karen Wiker; Brian Heap

Cc: Meuy Saechin

Subject: RE: School closure message

From: Brian Heap < Brian-Heap@scusd.edu > Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 1:56 PM

To: Karen Wiker < <u>WikerK@scusd.edu</u>>
Subject: School closure message

Hi Karen,

Below is a copy of the messages that were sent to all New Tech HS families and West Campus HS families, respectively, on Monday, February 5, 2024 via ParentSquare. Please let me nw if you need a different format or anything else.

Best,

Brian

School Canceled Due to Storm Related Power outage

Brian Heap • 9 days ago • Monday, Feb 5 at 7:46 AM • Sacramento New Technology High School Dear Sacramento New Tech Community,

All classes are canceled for Monday, February 5, 2024 due to a storm related power outage on campus.

SMUD crews are working to restore power and we fully expect school to be open with a normal schedule on Tuesday.

School Canceled Due to Storm Related Power outage

Brian Heap • 9 days ago • Monday, Feb 5 at 7:41 AM • West Campus High School Dear West Campus Community,

All classes are canceled for Monday, February 5, 2024 due to a storm related power outage on campus.

SMUD crews are working to restore power and we fully expect school to be open with a normal schedule on Tuesday.

Brian Heap

Chief Communications Officer

<u>Sacramento City Unified School District</u>

<u>Brian-Heap@scusd.edu</u>

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Here are Northern California school closures on Monday after power outages and snow

X

Updated: 8:19 AM PST Feb 5, 2024

Infinite Scroll Enabled



Daniel Macht ⊠

Digital Media Manager

Many school districts across Northern California have announced school closures on Monday morning because of widespread power outages, the snow, or problems on the roadways.

Here is a running list of the closures.



Advertisement

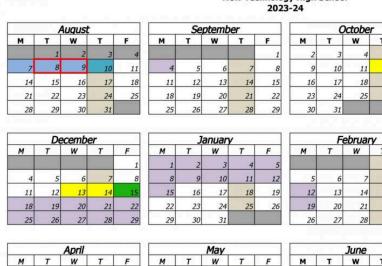
- St. Francis High School in East Sacramento will be closed because of power and internet outages.
- Jesuit High School in Carmichael will be closed because of a power outage.
- These Lake County public schools will be closed: Lucerne Elementary School, Upper Lake Unified Schools, Cobb Elementary School, Riviera Elementary School, Hance Community School, Konocti Unified School District, Kelseyville Unified School District.
- Yuba College in Marysville will be closed.
- All schools in the Marysville Joint Unified School District will be closed because of power outages and road conditions.
- All Tahoe Truckee Unified schools will be closed because of the snow.
- Sierra College will be closed because of power outages.
- These Yuba City Unified School District schools will be closed: Bridge Street Elementary, April Lane Elementary, Albert Powell High School and Kings Avenue Elementary. Twin Rivers Charter School in Yuba City is also closed.
- These Rocklin Unified School District schools will be closed: Antelope Creek Elementary, Sierra Elementary, Spring View Middle School, Rocklin Elementary.
- Sacramento Country Day School closed today due to power outage and debris on campus
- (Two SCUSD high schools canceled classes because of power outages on Monday: West) Campus and New Tech high schools.

Know of more schools on the list? Email us at web@kcra.com.

| MORE | More than 200,000 customers lose power across Northern California



New Technology High School 2023-24



		March							
T	F	М	Т	W	T	F			
1	2					1			
8	9	4	5	6	7	8			
15	16	11	12	13	14	15			
22	23	18	19	20	21	22			
29		25	26	27	28	29			

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November

W

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27

April				May				June						
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22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				27	28	29	30	31	31				

Cal	endar Day Legend
	Orientation Days
	Thurs - Early Out
	Regular Day
	Minimum Day
	Finals - Minimum Day
	DOL
	Staff PD Day (2)
	Holiday
	First Day of School

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL FISCAL SERVICES DIVISION September 2022

Certification Form for Independent Study Plan

Local Educational Agency: Sacramento City Unified School District	CDS Code: 3467439
Fiscal Year: 2023-24	County: Sacramento

This form shall accompany Form J-13A submittals beginning with fiscal year 2022 23. Instructions on how to complete this form are provided on page 2.

Independent Study Plan Certification

Pursuant to *Education Code* (*EC*) Section 46393, for Form J-13A submissions due to a school closure and/or material decrease in attendance occurring after September 1, 2021, a school district, county office of education, or charter school that provides a Form J-13A affidavit to the Superintendent, pursuant to *EC* Section 41422 (school closure) or *EC* Section 46392 (material decrease), shall certify that it has a plan for which independent study will be offered to students, pursuant to Article 5.5 (commencing with *EC* Section 51745) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 of Division 4. The independent study plan shall comply with all of the following:

- (1) Independent study is offered to any student impacted by any of the conditions listed in *EC* Section 46392 within 10 days of the first day of a school closure or material decrease in attendance. Students who are individuals with exceptional needs shall receive the services identified in their individualized education programs pursuant to paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) of *EC* Section 56345 and may participate in an independent study program.
- (2) Require reopening for in-person instruction as soon as possible unless prohibited under the direction of the local or state health officer.
- (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (c) of *EC* Section 51745 or subparagraph (F) of paragraph (9) of subdivision (g) of Section 51747, include information regarding establishing independent study master agreements in a reasonable amount of time.

A copy of the independent study plan, and if applicable, the state or local public health or public safety order that required school closure shall accompany the Form J-13A submitted to the California Department of Education.

■ I hereby certify that the independent study plan accompanying this Form J-13A submission meets the requirements described above and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

School District Superintendent, Charter School Administrator, or County Superintendent (or designee):

Name: Lisa Allen	Interim Superintendent
Wet Signature:	Date: 02/27/24



APPROVED

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Agenda Item# 10.2

Meeting Date: April 27, 2023

<u>Subject</u>	: Revision to Board Policy 6158: Independent Study
	Information Item Only Approval on Consent Agenda Conference (for discussion only) Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: Conference/Action Action Public Hearing

Division: Academic Office

Recommendation: NA

Background/Rationale:

Independent Study is governed by state Education Code sections 51744-51749.6. The Board voted to update Board Policy 6158 Independent Study in 2021 to bring it into alignment with the mandates in Assembly Bill (AB) 130 that changed the structure of Independent Study in California schools in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. New legislation, AB 181, brought Independent Study back into line with pre-pandemic norms. The proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158 are necessary to bring the policy back into alignment with current Independent Study legislation. SCUSD is also seeking to fulfil the requirement that the district has a plan in place to provide Independent Study to students within 10 days of an emergency school closure. The language in the revised policy is the first step toward this plan. This is a requirement for applying for a J-13A waiver.

Financial Considerations:

LCAP Goal(s):

Goal 2: Foundational Educational Experience with Equitable

Opportunities for ALL students Goal 3: Integrated Supports

Goal 5: Engagement/Empowerment

Goal 6: Implementation of MTSS/Data-Based Decision Making

Goal 8: Basic Services and Districtwide Operations/Supports

Goal 9: Focus on Students with Disabilities

Documents Attached: NA

1. Executive Summary

- Old Board Policy
 Redlined Board Policy
- 4. New Board Policy

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 min

Submitted by: Yvonne Wright, Chief Academic Officer

Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

Board of Education Executive Summary

Department: Academic Office

Title: Revision to Board Policy 6158-Independent Study

Date of Meeting: April 27, 2023



I. Overview/History of Department or Program

The SCSUD Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be met best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent Study classroom instruction is consistent with the district's curse of study and aligned to State content standards. Short-Term Independent Study can last for a duration of up to 14 days cumulative and can be administered at the school site with no extra duties required. Long-Term Independent Study is anything 15 days or more cumulative and requires synchronous instruction and live interaction as well as independent work. SCUSD uses Capital City School to facilitate Long-Term Independent Study.

II. Driving Governance:

Independent Study is governed by state Education Code sections 51744-51749.6. The Board voted to update Board Policy 6158 Independent Study in 2021 to bring it into alignment with the mandates in Assembly Bill (AB) 130 that changed the structure of Independent Study in California schools in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. New legislation, AB 181, brought Independent Study back into line with pre-pandemic norms. The proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158 are necessary to bring the policy back into alignment with current Independent Study legislation. Added language codifies the plan we have in place to provide Independent Study to students within 10 days of an emergency school closure. The language in the revised policy is the first step toward this plan. This is a requirement for applying for a J-13A waiver.

III. Budget:

The adoption of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158: Independent Study does not have any budget implications.

IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The goals of independent study are to provide students whose needs may best be met through study outside of the regular classroom setting with access to standards-based instruction that will allow them to acquire the skills and knowledge outlined in the states content standards. The effectiveness of the Independent study program is measured by student performance as measured by the CA Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) and indicators on the CA School Dashboard.

V. Major Initiatives:

In the introductory section these changes were made:

- Removal of obsolete citations following the second paragraph
- Removal of obsolete language in the third paragraph
- Removal of obsolete language in the fourth paragraph
- Additional language regarding emergency closures in a new seventh paragraph

Department 1

Board of Education Executive Summary

Department: Academic Office

Title: Revision to Board Policy 6158-Independent Study

Date of Meeting: April 27, 2023



General Independent Study Requirements

- Removal of an obsolete first paragraph
- Removal of obsolete citations following the second paragraph
- Additional language in a new second paragraph regarding minimum instructional hours
- Additional updated language added re: tiered engagement in the seventh paragraph and following enumerations
- Removal of an obsolete paragraph eleven
- Additional language regarding students exempted from division d) tiered reengagement procedures, e) opportunities for synchronous instruction and live interaction and f) transition plan to in-person instruction of EC sections 51747

Master Agreement

- Removal of an obsolete first paragraph
- Changes in citations following new paragraph one
- Removal of an obsolete paragraph following new paragraph one
- Removal of obsolete enumeration nine following the third paragraph
- Addition of language regarding requirements for students receiving Special Education services in enumeration ten following the third paragraph
- Removal of obsolete language from enumeration ten following the third paragraph

Course Based Independent Study

Removal of obsolete citations in enumerations six, eight, eleven and thirteen

Learning Agreement for Course-Based Study

- Addition of language regarding students receiving Special Education services in enumeration twelve
- Removal of obsolete language in enumeration twelve
- Removal of an obsolete language final paragraph

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

New language defining the conferencing taking place before independent study assignment

Records

A newly developed section with a new section heading and first paragraph

Program Evaluation

Removal of obsolete citations following the first paragraph

Department 2

Board of Education Executive Summary

Department: Academic Office

Title: Revision to Board Policy 6158-Independent Study

Date of Meeting: April 27, 2023



VI. Results:

The results of the revisions will be an updated policy that is aligned with current Independent Study legislation and Education Code and clearer guidance for implementation of Independent Study.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

The next steps in seeking approval for the proposed revisions to Board Policy 6158: Independent Study include the following:

- Present the policy revisions for a second reading on April 13, 2023
- Seek Board approval of the proposed revisions on May 4, 2023
- Update the administrative regulations for the policy to provide alignment and further guidance on policy implementation

Department 3

Policy 6158: Independent Study

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/16/1998 | Last Revised Date: 08/19/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 08/19/2021

Sacramento City USD Board Policy Independent Study

BP 6158 Instruction

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be met best 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 course(s) 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 on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part- 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, and an online course.

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(cf. 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization)
(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)
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A student's participation in independent study shall be voluntary. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

Independent study for each student shall be under the general supervision of a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Students' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51747.5)

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

General Independent Study Requirements

For the 2021-22 school year, the district shall offer independent study, as specified in Education Code 51745, to meet the educational needs of students unless the district has obtained a waiver. (Education Code 51745)

For the 2022-23 school year and thereafter, the Superintendent or designee may continue to offer and approve independent study for an individual student 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 the student would in the regular classroom setting.

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(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)
(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)
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Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be completed no more than one week after assigned for all grade levels and types of program. However, when necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due, up to the termination date of the agreement.

An evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study whenever the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or misses three assignments. Satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on all of the following indicators: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. The student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement specified in Education Code 52060
- 2. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments
- 3. Learning required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher
- 4. Progress towards successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study are provided with content aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to inperson instruction. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study for 15 school days or more receive the following throughout the school year: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. For students in grades transitional kindergarten and K-3, opportunities for daily synchronous instruction
- 2. For students in grades 4-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction
- 3. For students in grades 9-12, opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that procedures for tiered reengagement strategies are used for all students who are not generating attendance for more than three school days or 60 percent of the instructional days in a school week, or who are in violation of their written agreement. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more. The procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student
- 2. Notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation
- 3. A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary
- 4. A clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case later, than five instructional days. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written master agreement exists for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

The district shall provide written notice to the parents/guardians of all enrolled students of the option to enroll their child in in-person instruction or independent study during the 2021-22 school year. This notice shall be posted on the district's web site, and shall include, at a minimum, information about the right to request a student-parent-

educator conference before enrollment, student rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and reenrolling in independent study, and the instructional time, including synchronous and asynchronous learning, that a student will have access to as part of independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Upon the request of the parent/guardian of a student, before making a decision about enrolling or disenrolling in independent study and entering into a written agreement to do so, the district shall conduct a telephone, video conference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, or their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Master Agreement

For the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for three or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 11703)

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700, 11702)

- 1. The frequency, time, place and manner for submitting the student's assignments, reporting the student's academic progress, and communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding the student's academic progress
- 2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
- 3. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 4. A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study
- 5. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one school year
- 6. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion
- 7. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 8. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate
- 9. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

10. Before the commencement of independent study, the agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent/guardian or caregiver if the student is under age 18 years, the certificated employee responsible for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing

assistance to the student.

However, for the 2021-22 school year, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/ guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil, no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 51747)

The parent/guardian's signature on the agreement shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study.

Course-Based Independent Study

The district's course-based independent study program for students in grades K-12 shall be subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

- 1. A signed learning agreement shall be completed and on file for each participating student pursuant to Education Code 51749.6
- 2. Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold the appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district, charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of understanding to provide the instruction.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

- 3. Courses shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality and to provide intellectual challenge that is substantially equivalent to in-person, classroom-based instruction, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. The certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses. The certification shall also include plans to provide opportunities for students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 to receive daily synchronous instruction, for students in grades 4-8, to receive both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction, and for students in grades 9-12 to receive at least weekly synchronous instruction.
- 4. Students enrolled in independent study courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4, 47612, and 47612.1, and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, 47612, 48204, and 51747.3.
- 5. For each student participating in an independent study course, satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on the student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by their performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and student engagement set forth in Education Code 52060, completion of assignments, assessments, or other

indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments, learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

If satisfactory educational progress in an independent study class is not being made, the teacher shall notify the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian. The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether the student should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program. A written record of the evaluation findings shall be a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies shall be used for all students who are not making satisfactory

educational progress in one or more courses or who are in violation of the written learning agreement, as described in the section "Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study" below. These procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the verification of current contact information for each enrolled student, notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation, a plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary, and a clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

- 6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.
- 7. Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroom-based courses.

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

- 8. A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in the course-based independent study program.
- 9. The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.
- 10. For each student, the combined equivalent daily instructional minutes for courses in this program and all other courses shall meet applicable minimum instructional day requirements, and the student shall be offered the minimum annual total equivalent instructional minutes pursuant to Education Code 46200-46208.

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar) (cf. 6112 - School Day)

- 11. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission to the University of California or California State University shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.
- 12. A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

- 13. A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that the student does not have the materials, equipment, or access to Internet connectivity necessary to participate in the course.
- 14. A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in course-based independent study, unless the student's individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.
- 15. A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based independent study.
- 16. The district shall maintain a plan to transition any student whose family wishes to return to in-person instruction from course-based independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days.

Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study

Before enrolling a student in a course within this program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51749.6)

- 1. A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5
- 2. The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to item #2 above

- 3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
- 4. The learning objectives and expectations for each course, including, but not limited to, a description of how satisfactory educational progress is measured and when a student evaluation is required to determine whether the student should remain in the course or be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program
- 5. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 6. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 7. A statement that enrollment is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. In the case of a student who is suspended or expelled, or who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the student through course-based independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.
- 8. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding a student's academic progress.
- 9. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
- 10. A statement of the adopted policies regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in course-based independent study.
- 11. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the learning agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.
- 12. Before the commencement of an independent study course, the learning agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent/guardian or caregiver, if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who has met the requirements of Family Code 6550-6552.

However, for the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the CDE. (Education Code 51749.6)

The student's or parent/guardian's signature shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

A student-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate including, but not limited to, as a reengagement

strategy and/or if requested by a parent/guardian prior to enrollment or disenrollment from independent study. (Education Code 51745.5, 51747, 51749.5)

Records for Audit Purposes

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that records are maintained for audit purposes. These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

- 1. A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study
- 2. A listing of the students, by grade level, program, and school, who have participated in independent study, along with the units of the curriculum attempted and completed by students in grades K-8 and the course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and adult education
- 3. A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's notations indicating that the teacher has personally evaluated the work or personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher
- 4. As appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, a daily or hourly attendance register that is separate from classroom attendance records, maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by the supervising teacher if they are two different persons
- 5. Appropriate documentation of compliance with the teacher-student ratios required by Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5 (Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5)
- 6. Appropriate documentation of compliance with the requirements pursuant to Education Code 51747.5 to ensure the coordination, evaluation, and supervision of the independent study of each student by a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300 (Education Code 51747.5)

The district shall document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction pursuant to Education Code 51747 on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which independent study is provided. A student who does not participate in independent study on a school day shall be documented as nonparticipatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

The Superintendent or designee also shall maintain a written or computer-based record such as a grade book or summary document of student engagement, for each class, of all grades, assignments, and assessments for each student for independent study assignments. (Education Code 51747.5)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

The signed, dated agreement, any supplemental agreement, assignment records, work samples, and attendance records may be maintained on file electronically. (Education Code 51747)

Program Evaluation

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. Based on the program evaluation, the Board and Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
17289 Exemption for building
41020 Audit guidelines
41976.2 Independent study programs; adult education funding
42238 Revenue limits

42238.05 Local control funding formula; average daily attendance

44865 Qualifications for home teachers and teachers in special classes and schools; consent to assignment

46200-46208 Instructional day and year

46300-46307.1 Methods of computing average daily attendance

46390-46393 Emergency average daily attendance

46600 Interdistrict attendance computation

47612-47612.1 Charter school operation

47612.5 Independent study in charter schools

48204 Residency

48206.3 Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities

48220 Classes of children exempted

48340 Improvement of pupil attendance

48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

48916.1 Educational program requirements for expelled students

48917 Suspension of expulsion order

49011 Student fees

51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation

51745-51749.6 Independent study programs

52060 Local control and accountability plan

52522 Adult education alternative instructional delivery

52523 Adult education as supplement to high school curriculum; criteria 56026 Individual with exceptional needs

58500-58512 Alternative schools and programs of choice

FAMILY CODE

6550 Authorization affidavits

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11700-11703 Independent study

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6301 Highly qualified teachers

6311 State plans

COURT DECISIONS

Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004) 123 Cal.App.4th 1365

Management Resources:

Elements of Exemplary Independent Study

California Digital Learning Integration and Standards Guidance, April 2021

EDUCATION AUDIT APPEALS PANEL PUBLICATIONS

Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies and State Compliance Reporting

WEB SITES

California Consortium for Independent Study: http://www.ccis.org

California Department of Education, Independent Study: http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/is

Education Audit Appeals Panel: http://www.eaap.ca.gov

Policy SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: November 16, 1998 Sacramento, California

revised: April 15, 2002 revised: August 19, 2021 Board Policy Manual Sacramento City Unified School District

Policy 6158: Independent Study

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2005 | Last Revised Date: 12/01/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 12/01/2021

Sacramento City USD Board Policy Independent Study

BP 6158 Instruction

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be met-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 course(s) 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 on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis and in conjunction with part- 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, and an online course.

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter-School Authorization) (cf. 6181 - Alternative-Schools/Programs-of Choice)

A student's Except for students who, during the 2021-2022 school year, cannot participate in classroom-based instruction due to quarantine or school closure for exposure to or infection with COVID-19, student pParticipation in independent study shall be voluntary. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5, 51749.6)

Independent study for each student shall be under the general supervision of a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Students' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51747.5)

Will the exception of students who, during the 2021-2022 school year, cannot participate in classroombased instruction due to a quarantine or school closure for exposure to or infection with COVID_19. The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be three consecutive school days. (Education Code 51747)

Education Code section 51745(c) states that a student with an IEP may participate in independent study if the student's IEP specifically provides for that participation.

In accordance with Education Code 26393 in the event of an emergency school closure, Independent Study will be offered to students within 10 days of the first day of a school closure.

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General Independent Study Requirements

For the 2021-22-school year, the district shall offer independent study, as specified in Education Code 51745, to meet the educational needs of students unless the district has obtained a waiver. (Education Code 51745)

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For the 2022-23 school year and thereafter, the Superintendent or designee may continue to offer and approve independent study for an individual student 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 the student would in the regular classroom setting.

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(cf. 5147 – Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6011 – Academic Standards)
(cf. 6143 – Courses of Study)
(cf. 6146.1 – High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.11 – Alternative Credits Toward-Graduation)
(cf. 6172 – Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6200 – Adult Education)
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The minimum instructional minutes for students participating in independent study shall be the same as required for their peers at the school who are receiving in-person instruction, except as otherwise permitted by law. (Education Code 46100)

Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be completed no more than one week after assigned for all grade levels and types of program. However, When necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due, up-to, However, in no event shall the due date of an assignment be extended beyond the termination date of the agreement.

An evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study whenever the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or misses three assignments. Satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on all of the following indicators: (Education Code 51747)

The student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement specified in Education Code 52060

 The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments

- Learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher
- Progress towards successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study are provided with content aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study for 15 school days or more receive the following while engaging in independent study, throughout the school year: (Education Code 51747)

1.

4. For students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and K-grades 1 to 3, opportunities for daily synchronous instruction

2.

2. For students in grades 4-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction

3.

3. For students in grades 9-12, opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that procedures for the tiered reengagement strategies below are used for all students whe participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or

1. Are not generating attendance for more than three school days or 50 percent of the instructional days in a school week, or who 10 percent of required minimum instructional time over four continuous weeks of the district's approved instructional calendar.

- Are found to be not participatory pursuant to Section 51747.5 for more than the greater of three school days or 60 percent of the scheduled days of synchronous instruction in a school month as applicable by grade span.
- 3. Are in violation of their written agreement. This requirement only applies to students participating

<u>Tiered reengagement strategies procedures used in district</u> independent study program for 15 school days or more. The procedures programs shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747)

1.

more who: (Education Code 51747)

Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student

 Notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence recording of a non-attendance day or lack of participation

 A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary

4. —A clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's
written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's
achievement and well-being

For students participating in independent study for 15 days or more, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case later than five instructional days. This requirement only applies to students participating in an independent study program for 15-school days or more. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written master agreement exists for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

The district shall provide written notice to the parents/guardians of all enrolled students of the option to enroll their child in in-person instruction or independent study during the 2021-22 school year. This notice shall be posted on the district's web site, and shall include, at a minimum, information about the

right to request a student-parent-educator conference before enrollment, student rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and reenrolling in independent study, and the instructional time, including synchronous and asynchronous learning, that a student will have access to as part of independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Upon the request of the parent/guardian of a student, <u>and</u> before <u>making a decision about enrolling or disenrolling in independent study and entering into signing</u> a written agreement to do so as described <u>below in the section "Master Agreement,"</u> the district shall conduct a telephone, <u>video conference video conference</u>, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, <u>orand</u>, <u>if requested</u>, their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Students are exempted from subdivision d) tiered reengagement procedures, e) opportunities for synchronous instruction and live interaction and f) transition plan to in-person instruction of EC sections 51747 if the following conditions are met:

- The student participates in independent study for fewer than 15 cumulative school days in a school year, or
- The student is enrolled in a comprehensive school for classroom-based instruction and under the care of appropriately licensed professionals, participating in independent study due to necessary medical treatments or inpatient treatment for mental health care or substance abuse.

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Master Agreement

For the 2021-22-school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study no later than 30-days after the first day of instruction.

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for three or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 41703) (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 11703)

However, for the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement from each student participating in an independent study program for any length of time, no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction in the independent study program.

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700, 11702)

1.

The frequency, time, place and manner for submitting the student's assignments, reporting the student's academic progress, and communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding the student's academic progress

- 2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
- The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 4. 4.—A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number

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of missed assignments which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study

- The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one school year
- A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other
 measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the
 student upon completion
- 7. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 8. 8. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate
 - 9. For the 2021-22 school year, this statement shall not be required for a student's participation in independent study if the student is unable to attend in person instruction because of a quarantine or school closure mandated by a local or state health order or guidance due to the student's exposure to or infection with COVID-19.
- 8.9. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction

<u>0.</u>

(cf. 5144.1 Suspension and Expulsion/Due-Process)

40. Before the commencement of independent study, the agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent or/guardian-or caregiver (if the student is under age 18 years), the certificated employee designated as having responsibilityle for the general supervision of the independent study program, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. In addition, a student with an active IEP will require the review and signature of a certificated or licensed member of their Special Education Individual Education Plan (IEP) support team on the written agreement.

Parents should be reminded of their consent rights pursuant to 34 CFR section 300,300, including the right to refuse consent to placement related services or the entire IEP.

However, for the 2021-22 school year, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupilstudent, no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

in the independent study program or October 15, whichever date comes later.

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Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 51747)

The parent/guardian's signature on the agreement shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study.

Course-Based Independent Study

The district's course-based independent study program for students in grades \underline{T} K-12 shall be subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

- 1.
- 4.——A signed learning agreement shall be completed and on file for each participating student, pursuant to Education Code 51749.6
- Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold
 the appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district,
 charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of
 understanding to provide the instruction.
- (cf. 4112.2 Cortification)
 - 3. Courses shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality and to provide intellectual challenge that is substantially equivalent to inperson, classroom-based instruction, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. The certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses. The certification shall also include plans to provide opportunities throughout the school year, for students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 to receive daily synchronous instruction, for students in grades 4-8, to receive both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction, and for students in grades 9-12 to receive at least weekly synchronous instruction.
- 4. -
 - 4. —Students enrolled in independent study courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4, 47612, and 47612.1, and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, 47612, 48204, and 51747.3.
- 5. For each student participating in an independent study course, satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on the student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by their performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and student engagement set forth in Education Code 52060, completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments, learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

If satisfactory educational progress in an independent study class is not being made, the teacher shall notify the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian. The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether the student should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program. A written record of the evaluation

findings shall be a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies (as listed above in section XX?) shall be used for all students who are not making satisfactory educational progress in one or more courses or who are in violation of the written learning agreement, as described in the section "Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study" below. These procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the verification of current contact information for each enrolled student, notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation, a plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary, and a clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being.

6. (cf. 5125 - Student Records)

6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.

 Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroom-based courses.

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

8. —A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in the course-based independent study program.

 The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.

11. (of: 6111 – School Calendar) (cf: 6112 – School Day)

11. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission to the University of California or California State University shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.

 A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

13. (cf. 3260 - Foes and Charges)

43.— A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that the student does not have the materials, equipment, or access to Internet connectivity necessary to participate in the course.

14. 44.—A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in course-based independent study, unless the student's individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.
 15. A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based independent study.
16. 16. —The district shall maintain a plan to transition any student whose family wishes to return to in-person instruction from course-based independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days.
Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study
Before enrolling a student in a course within this program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51749.6)
f _e
 A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5
 The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to item #2 above
3. 3 of the Course-Based Independent Study section above
2-3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
3.4
 4.5. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
 5.6. 6. — A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
7. A statement that enrollment is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. In the case of a student who is suspended or expelled, or who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the student through course-based independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.

- 7-8.
 The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding a student's academic progress.
- 9. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
- 9-10.

 40.

 A statement of the adopted policies regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in course-based independent study.
- 11. _____A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the learning agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.
- 12. For 2022-23 school year and thereafter, before the commencement of an independent study course, the learning agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, and by the student's parent or/guardian or caregiver, (if the student is less than 18 years of age), the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study program, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who have met the requirements of Family Code 6550 6552. In addition, a student with an active IEP will require the review and signature of a certificated or licensed member of their Special Education Individual Education Plan (IEP) team on the written agreement.

Parents should be reminded of their consent rights pursuant to 34 CFR section 300.300, including the right to refuse consent to placement related services or the entire IEP.

However, For the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for independent study from the student, or the student's parent/guardian if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study course, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the CDE. (Education Code 51749.6)

The student's or

A signed learning agreement from a parent/guardian's signatureguardian of a student who is less than 18 years of age shall constitute the parent/guardian's permission for the student to receive instruction through course-based independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

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Upon the request of a student's parent/guardian, and before signing a written agreement as described above, the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference, or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, or their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

A student-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate including, but not limited to, as a reengagement strategy and/or, if requested by a parent/guardian, prior to enrollment or disenrollment from independent study. (Education Code 51745.5, 51747, 51749.5)

Records

for Audit Purposes

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that records are maintained for audit purposes.

These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

1.

4. —A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study

2.

A listing of the students, by grade level, program, and school, who have participated in independent study, along with the units of the curriculum attempted and completed by students in grades K-8 and the course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and adult education

3

A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's notations indicating that the teacher has personally evaluated the work or personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher

4

4. As appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, a daily or hourly attendance register that is separate from classroom attendance records, maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by the supervising teacher if they are two different persons

5.

 Appropriate documentation of compliance with the teacher-student ratios required by Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5 (Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5)

6.

6. Appropriate documentation of compliance with the requirements pursuant to Education Code 51747.5 to ensure the coordination, evaluation, and supervision of the independent study of each student by a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300 (Education Code 51747.5)

The district shall document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction pursuant to Education Code 51747 on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which live interaction or synchronous instruction is provided as part of the independent study is provided program. A student who does not participate in independent study on a school dayscheduled live interaction or synchronous instruction shall be documented as non-participatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

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Commented [6R4]: _Re-opened_ I believe this should be 51749.5 - only section in the ind study Ed Code section record retention mentioned The Superintendent or designee also shall also maintain a written or computer-based record such as a grade book or summary document of student engagement, for each class, of all grades, assignments, and assessments for each student for independent study assignments. (Education Code 51747.5)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

The signed, dated agreement, any supplemental agreement, assignment records, work samples, and attendance records may be maintained on file electronically. (Education Code 51747)

Program Evaluation

COURT DECISIONS

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. Based on the program evaluation, the Board and Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

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(cf. 0500 - Accountability)
(cf. 5121 Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student-Assessment)
Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
17289 Exemption for building
41020 Audit-guidelines
41976.2 Independent study programs; adult education funding
42238 Revenue limits
42238.05 Local control funding formula; average daily attendance
44865 Qualifications for home teachers and teachers in special classes and schools; consent to
46200-46208 Instructional day and year
46300-46307.1 Methods of computing average daily attendance
46390-46393 Emergency average daily attendance
46600 Interdistrict-attendance computation
47612-47612.1 Charter school operation
47612.5 Independent study in charter schools
48204 Residency
48206.3 Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities
48220 Classes of children exempted
48340 Improvement of pupil-attendance
48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances
48916.1 Educational program requirements for expelled students
48917-Suspension of expulsion-order
49011 Student fees
51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation
51745-51749.6 Independent study programs
52060 Local control and accountability plan
52522 Adult education alternative instructional delivery
52523 Adult education as supplement to high school-curriculum; criteria56026 Individual with
exceptional needs
58500-58512 Alternative schools and programs of choice
FAMILY CODE
6550 Authorization affidavits
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
11700-11703 Independent study
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
6301-Highly qualified teachers
6311 State plans
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Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004) 123 Cal. App. 4th 1365

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California-Department of Education, Independent Study: http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/is

Education Audit Appeals Panel: http://www.eaap.ca.gev

Pelicy SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT adopted: November 16, 1998 Sacramento, California

revised: April 15, 2002 revised: August 19, 2021

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State 5 CCR 11700-11705	Description Independent study
Ed. Code 17289	Exemption for facilities
Ed. Code 41020	Requirement for annual audit
Ed. Code 41422	Apportionment credit for student inability to attend in-person or school closure due to COVID-19
Ed. Code 41976.2	Independent study programs; adult education funding
Ed. Code 42238	Revenue limits
Ed. Code 42238.05	Local control funding formula; average daily attendance
Ed. Code 44865	Qualifications for home teachers
Ed. Code 46100	Length of school day
Ed. Code 46200-46208	Incentives for longer instructional day and year
Ed. Code 46300-46307.1	Methods of computing average daily attendance
Ed. Code 46390-46393	Emergency average daily attendance
Ed. Code 46600	Interdistrict attendance computation
Ed. Code 47612-47612.1	Charter School Operation
Ed. Code 47612.5	Charter schools operations, general requirements
Ed. Code 48204	Residency requirements for school attendance
Ed. Code 48206.3	Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities
Ed. Code 48220	Classes of children exempted

Ed. Code 48340 Improvement of pupil attendance Ed. Code 48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

Ed. Code 48916.1 Educational program requirements for expelled students

Ed. Code 48917 Suspension of expulsion order

Ed. Code 49011 Student fees

Ed. Code 51225.3 High school graduation

Ed. Code 51745-51749.6 Independent study

Ed. Code 52060 Local Control and Accountability Plan

Ed. Code 52522 Adult education alternative instructional delivery

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Ed. Code 56026 Individual with exceptional needs

Ed. Code 58500-58512 Alternative schools and programs of choice

Fam. Code 6550-6552 Caregivers

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20 USC 6301 Highly qualified teachers

20 USC 6311 State plan

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Status: ADOPTED

Policy 6158: Independent Study

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2005 | Last Revised Date: 12/01/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 12/01/2021

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for 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 course(s) 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 on a full-time or part-time basis and in conjunction with part- 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, and an online course.

Participation in independent study shall be voluntary. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5, 51749.6)

Independent study for each student shall be under the general supervision of a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Students' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 51747.5)

The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be three consecutive school days. (Education Code 51747)

Education Code section 51745(c) states that a student with an IEP may participate in independent study if the student's IEP specifically provides for that participation.

In accordance with Education Code 26393 in the event of an emergency school closure, Independent Study will be offered to students within 10 days of the first day of a school closure.

General Independent Study Requirements

For the 2022-23 school year and thereafter, the Superintendent or designee may offer and approve independent study for an individual student 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 the student would in the regular classroom setting.

The minimum instructional minutes for students participating in independent study shall be the same as required for their peers at the school who are receiving in-person instruction, except as otherwise permitted by law. (Education Code 46100)

Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be completed no more than one week after assigned for all grade levels and types of program. When necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due. However, in no event shall the due date of an assignment be extended beyond the termination date of the agreement.

An evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in independent study whenever the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or misses three assignments. Satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on all of the following indicators: (Education Code 51747)

- The student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the student's performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement specified in Education Code 52060
- 2. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments
- 3. Learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher
- 4. Progress towards successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study are provided with content aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that students participating in independent study for 15 school days or more receive the following while engaging in independent study: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. For students in grades transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 3, opportunities for daily synchronous instruction
- 2. For students in grades 4-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction
- 3. For students in grades 9-12, opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that procedures for the tiered reengagement strategies below are used for all students participating in an independent study program for 15 school days or more who: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. Are not generating attendance for more than three school days or 50 percent of the instructional days in a school week, or 10 percent of required minimum instructional time over four continuous weeks of the district's approved instructional calendar.
- 2. Are found to be not participatory pursuant to Section 51747.5 for more than the greater of three school days or 60 percent of the scheduled days of synchronous instruction in a school month as applicable by grade span.
- 3. Are in violation of their written agreement

Tiered reengagement strategies procedures used in district independent study programs shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747)

- 1. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student
- 2. Notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the recording of a non-attendance day or lack of participation
- 3. A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary

4. A clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being

For students participating in independent study for 15 days or more, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a plan to transition students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case later than five instructional days. (Education Code 51747)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written master agreement exists for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

Upon the request of the parent/guardian of a student, and before signing a written agreement as described below in the section "Master Agreement," the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, and, if requested, their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51747)

Students are exempted from subdivision d) tiered reengagement procedures, e) opportunities for synchronous instruction and live interaction and f) transition plan to in-person instruction of EC sections 51747 if the following conditions are met:

- 1. The student participates in independent study for fewer than 15 cumulative school days in a school year, or
- The student is enrolled in a comprehensive school for classroom-based instruction and under the care of appropriately licensed professionals, participating in independent study due to necessary medical treatments or inpatient treatment for mental health care or substance abuse.

Master Agreement

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for three or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747; 5 CCR 11703)

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700, 11702)

- 1. The frequency, time, place and manner for submitting the student's assignments, reporting the student's academic progress, and communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding the student's academic progress
- 2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
- The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 4. A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study
- 5. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one

school year

- A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion
- 7. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 8. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate
- 9. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction

Before the commencement of independent study, the agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the student's parent or guardian (if the student is under age 18 years), the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study program, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable.

Parents should be reminded of their consent rights pursuant to 34 CFR section 300.300, including the right to refuse consent to placement related services or the entire IEP.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the California Department of Education (CDE). (Education Code 51747)

The parent/guardian's signature on the agreement shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study.

Course-Based Independent Study

The district's course-based independent study program for students in grades TK-12 shall be subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

- 1. A signed learning agreement shall be completed and on file for each participating student, pursuant to Education Code 51749.6
- Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold the
 appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district,
 charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of
 understanding to provide the instruction.
- 3. Courses shall be annually certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality and to provide intellectual challenge that is substantially equivalent to in-person, classroom-based instruction, and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. For high schools, this 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 the A-G admissions criteria. The certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses. The certification shall also include plans to provide opportunities throughout the school year, for students in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-3 to receive daily synchronous instruction, for students

in grades 4-8, to receive both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction, and for students in grades 9-12 to receive at least weekly synchronous instruction.

- 4. Students enrolled in independent study courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4, 47612, and 47612.1, and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, 47612, 48204, and 51747.3.
- 5. For each student participating in an independent study course, satisfactory educational progress shall be determined based on the student's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by their performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and student engagement set forth in Education Code 52060, completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments, learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

If satisfactory educational progress in an independent study class is not being made, the teacher shall notify the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian. The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether the student should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program. A written record of the evaluation findings shall be a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies (as listed above) shall be used for all students who are not making satisfactory educational progress in one or more courses or who are in violation of the written learning agreement, as described in the section "Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study" below. These procedures shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the verification of current contact information for each enrolled student, notification to parents/guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation, a plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary, and a clear standard for requiring a student-parent-educator conference to review a student's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being.

- 6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.
- 7. Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroom-based courses.
- 8. A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in the course-based independent study program.
- The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.
- 10. For each student, the combined equivalent daily instructional minutes for courses in this program and all other courses shall meet applicable minimum instructional day requirements, and the student shall be offered the minimum annual total equivalent instructional minutes pursuant to Education Code 46200-46208.
- 11. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission to the University of California or California State University shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.
- 12. A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

- 13. A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that the student does not have the materials, equipment, or access to Internet connectivity necessary to participate in the course.
- 14. A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in course-based independent study, unless the student's individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.
- 15. A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based independent study.
- 16. The district shall maintain a plan to transition any student whose family wishes to return to inperson instruction from course-based independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days.

Learning Agreement for Course-Based Independent Study

Before enrolling a student in a course within this program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, the student's parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51749.6)

- 1. A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5
- 2. The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to item #3 of the Course-Based Independent Study section above
- 3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
- 4. The learning objectives and expectations for each course, including, but not limited to, a description of how satisfactory educational progress is measured and when a student evaluation is required to determine whether the student should remain in the course or be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program
- 5. The specific resources that will be made available to the student, including materials and personnel, and access to Internet connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work
- 6. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, students with disabilities with an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan in order to be consistent with their program or plan, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- 7. A statement that enrollment is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. In the case of a student who is suspended or expelled, or who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the student through course-based independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.
- 8. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent/guardian regarding a student's academic progress.
- 9. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.

- 10. A statement of the adopted policies regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in course-based independent study.
- 11. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the learning agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.
- 12. For 2022-23 school year and thereafter, before the commencement of an independent study course, the learning agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, parent or guardian (if the student is less than 18 years of age), the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of the independent study program, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable.

Parents should be reminded of their consent rights pursuant to 34 CFR section 300.300, including the right to refuse consent to placement related services or the entire IEP.

Written agreements may be signed using an electronic signature that complies with state and federal standards, as determined by the CDE. (Education Code 51749.6)

A signed learning agreement from a parent/guardian of a student who is less than 18 years of age shall constitute the parent/guardian's permission for the student to receive instruction through course-based independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

Student-Parent-Educator Conferences

Upon the request of a student's parent/guardian, and before signing a written agreement as described above, the district shall conduct a telephone, videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference, or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, or their advocate may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

A student-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate including, but not limited to, as a reengagement strategy and/or, if requested by a parent/guardian, prior to enrollment or disenrollment from independent study. (Education Code 51745.5, 51747, 51749.5)

Records

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Code 51749.6)

These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

- A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study
- A listing of the students, by grade level, program, and school, who have participated in independent study, along with the units of the curriculum attempted and completed by students in grades K-8 and the course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and adult education
- 3. A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's notations indicating that the teacher has personally evaluated the work or personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher
- 4. As appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, a daily or hourly attendance register that is separate from classroom attendance records, maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by

the supervising teacher if they are two different persons

- 5. Appropriate documentation of compliance with the teacher-student ratios required by Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5 (Education Code 51745.6 and 51749.5)
- Appropriate documentation of compliance with the requirements pursuant to Education Code 51747.5 to ensure the coordination, evaluation, and supervision of the independent study of each student by a district employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300 (Education Code 51747.5)

The district shall document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction pursuant to Education Code 51747 on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which live interaction or synchronous instruction is provided as part of the independent study program. A student who does not participate in scheduled live interaction or synchronous instruction shall be documented as non-participatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall also maintain a written or computer-based record such as a grade book or summary document of student engagement, for each class, of all grades, assignments, and assessments for each student for independent study assignments. (Education Code 51747.5)

The signed, dated agreement, any supplemental agreement, assignment records, work samples, and attendance records may be maintained on file electronically. (Education Code 51747)

Program Evaluation

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. Based on the program evaluation, the Board and Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State 5 CCR 11700-11705	Description Independent study
Ed. Code 17289	Exemption for facilities
Ed. Code 41020	Requirement for annual audit
Ed. Code 41422	Apportionment credit for student inability to attend in-person or school closure due to COVID-19
Ed. Code 41976.2	Independent study programs; adult education funding
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Ed. Code 42238.05	Local control funding formula; average daily attendance
Ed. Code 44865	Qualifications for home teachers
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Ed. Code 46300-46307.1	Methods of computing average daily attendance
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Ed. Code 47612-47612.1	Charter School Operation
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Ed. Code 48204	Residency requirements for school attendance
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California Department of Education Publication	Clarifications for Student Learning in Quarantine, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	2021-22 AA & IT Independent Study FAQs, 2021
California Department of Education Publication	California Digital Learning Integration and Standards Guidance, April 2021
California Department of Education Publication	Elements of Exemplary Independent Study
Court Decision	Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004) 123 Cal.App.4th 1365

Education Audit Appeals Panel

Publication

Guide for Annual Audits of K-12 Local Education Agencies

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