

Instruction

Independent Study for Classroom Assignments and Homework

1 The Governing Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to establish
2 an independent study option for eligible students to complete classroom
3 assignments and homework outside of the regular classroom setting.
4 Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan
5 and enabling students to reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation
6 requirements. As necessary to meet student needs, independent study may be
7 offered on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part- or
8 full-time classroom study. Independent study involving on-line classes and
9 internship opportunities will be the subject of a separate Board policy.

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11 1 A student's participation in independent study shall be voluntary. Students
12 participating in independent study shall have the right, at any time, to enter
13 or return to the regular classroom mode of instruction.

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15 2 No individual with exceptional needs as defined in Education Code Section
16 56026 may participate in independent study unless his or her
17 individualized education program specifically provides for that
18 participation.

19
20 3 No temporarily disabled student may receive individual instruction
21 pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through independent study.
22 However, if the temporarily disabled student's parent or guardian and the
23 District agree, the student may receive instruction through independent
24 study instead of the home and hospital instruction provided pursuant to
25 Education Code Section 48206.3.

26
27 4 The District shall provide appropriate existing services and resources to
28 enable students to complete their independent study successfully.

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30 Parents/guardians of students who are interested in independent study shall
31 contact the school's Principal or designee. The Principal or designee shall
32 approve independent study for an individual student only upon determining that
33 the student is prepared to meet the District's requirements for independent
34 study.

35
36 The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be five
37 consecutive school days. Circumstances that may warrant participation in
38 independent study shall include:

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40 1 Temporary disability or illness which prevents the student from attending
41 school verified by a doctor's note;

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- 43 2 Death in the immediate family or other family emergency;
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45 3 Other legally excused absences and/or justifiable reasons as authorized
46 by Education Code Section 48205;
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48 4 Observation of religious holidays as defined in Education Code Section
49 46014;
50
51 5 Extenuating circumstances determined by the Principal and the Assistant
52 Superintendent that warrant an individualized educational plan for
53 students to reach curriculum objectives and/or fulfill graduation
54 requirements.
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56 The Governing Board does not authorize Independent Study for unexcused
57 absences or family convenience, such as departure from the school day or
58 week to participate in non-educational activities, including, but not limited to
59 vacation, entertainment, and social family events. Education Code 48205 does
60 not mandate teachers to provide makeup assignments or tests for unexcused
61 absences. Teachers may assign zero credit whenever a student has
62 incomplete work and non-performance. Unauthorized absences shall be
63 recorded as unexcused absences in the student's attendance record and be
64 subject to the truancy law, as well as Board Policy 5121, which authorizes
65 teachers to assign failing grades for excessive unexcused absences.
66

67 Independent study course work shall not be provided to any student in advance
68 of the approved term (dates) of the independent study agreement. No
69 independent study contracts will be issued during state testing times.
70

71 Independent study entails a commitment by both the parent/guardian and the
72 student. As the student gets older, he/she assumes a greater portion of the
73 responsibility involved. The Principal or designee shall determine that the
74 prospective independent study student understands and is prepared to meet
75 the district's requirements for this program
76

77 The Principal or designee shall ensure that a written independent study
78 agreement, as prescribed by law exists for each participating student. (EC
79 51747) The written agreement shall specify the length of time in which each
80 independent study assignment must be completed. Because excessive
81 leniency in the duration of independent study assignment deadlines may result
82 in a student falling behind his/her peers and increase the risk of dropping out of
83 school, independent study assignments shall be no more than one week for all
84 grade levels and types of program. However, when necessary based on the

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specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Principal 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.

When a participating student misses three assignments, an evaluation shall be conducted by the teacher, counselor, and Principal to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in independent study. However, a student's written agreement may specify a lower or higher number of missed assignments that will trigger an evaluation when the Principal or designee determines it appropriate based on the nature of the assignments, the total number of assignments, and/or other unique circumstances.

Legal References*Education Code*

17289	Exemption for facilities used for independent study (IS)
41976.2	IS programs; funding in adult education
44865	Qualification for home teachers and consent to IS assignment
43600 (e)	Authority for claiming independent study ADA
46300.143600.	2ADA and funds; residence requirements
43600.4	IS pupils; eligible adult education coursework
43600.6	Restrictions on apportionment of funds for IS
46300.7	Permission of parents or guardians for IS participation
48206.3	Pupils with temporary disabilities: Individual instruction definition
43840	Legislative intent; proposals and procedures for pupil attendance
51225.3	Requirements for graduation
51745-51749.5	Independent Study (Article 5.5)
5200(e)	Improvement of elementary and secondary education
52015	School improvement plans: components of the plan
52017	Secondary Schools
52206	GATE
52522	Alternative instructional delivery
52523	Adult education as a supplement for high school curriculum; criteria
56026	Individuals with exceptional needs

California Code of Regulations, Title 5

11700	Definitions of Independent Study
11701	District responsibilities
11702.5	Equitable provision of resources and services
11702	Requirements for agreements
11703	Records

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