

Instruction

INDEPENDENT STUDY

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 and enabling students to reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements. 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 shall approve independent study for an individual student only upon determining that the student is prepared to meet the District's requirements for independent study and is likely to succeed in independent study as well as or better than he/she would in the regular classroom.

The minimum period of time for any independent study agreement shall be five consecutive school days.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written independent study agreement, as prescribed by law, exists for each participating student.

To foster each participating student's success in independent study, the maximum length of time which may elapse between the date an assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assigned work is two weeks.

When circumstances justify a longer time, the Superintendent or designee may extend the maximum length of an assignment pursuant to a written request with justification.

Supervising teachers should carefully set the duration of independent study assignments, within the limits specified above, and establish an appropriate schedule for student-teacher conferences in order to help identify students falling behind in their work or in danger of failing or dropping out of school. Except in unusual circumstances, it is expected that the supervising teacher will meet with each participating student once a week to discuss the student's progress.

When any participating student fails to complete three independent study assignments without valid reasons, an evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in independent study.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board the number of students participating in independent study, the average daily attendance (ADA) generated for apportionment purposes, the quality of these students' work as measured by standard indicators, and the number and proportion of independent study students who graduate or successfully complete independent study.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Home-Based Independent Study

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage parents/guardians desiring to teach their children at home to have their children participate in independent study. Such participation allows continued contact and cooperation between the school system and the home-based student.

Legal Reference: Education Code  
17289 Exemption for facilities  
42238 Revenue limits  
44865 Qualifications for home teachers and teachers in special classes and schools; consent to assignment  
300-46300.6 Methods of computing ADA  
47612.5 Independent study in charter schools  
48204 Residency based on parent employment  
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  
51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation  
51745-51749.3 Independent study programs  
56026 Individuals with exceptional needs  
Family Code  
6550 Authorization affidavits  
Code of Regulations, Title 5  
11700-11703 Independent study  
Court Decisions  
Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004)  
123 Cal.App.4th 1365