



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item 10.2

**Meeting Date:** April 13, 2023

**Subject:** 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

2. Old Board Policy
3. Redlined Board Policy
4. New Board Policy

**Estimated Time of Presentation:** 5 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 13, 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 course 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

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### 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 Special Education language 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 Special Education language in enumeration 12
- Removal of obsolete language in enumeration 12
- 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

## VI. Results:

## Board of Education Executive Summary

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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

**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.

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

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.

*(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)*

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 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 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

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**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 p~~ 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)

~~With the exception of students who, during the 2021-2022 school year, cannot participate in classroom-based 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.

**General Independent Study Requirements**

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~~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.

~~(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)~~

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)

1.

~~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.

~~2.~~ The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments

3.

~~3.~~ Learning of required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher

4.

~~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 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 ~~who 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 ~~who 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. ~~This requirement only applies to students participating in an~~

Tiered reengagement strategies procedures used in district 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. ~~4.~~ Verification of current contact information for each enrolled student
2. ~~2.~~ 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
3. ~~3.~~ A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary
4. ~~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, ~~t~~he 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~~

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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, ~~and before making a decision about enrolling or disenrolling in independent study and entering into signing~~ a written agreement ~~to do so, as described below in the section "Master Agreement,"~~ the district shall conduct a telephone, ~~video conference~~ videoconference, or in-person student-parent-educator conference or other meeting during which the student, parent/guardian, ~~or 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~~
- ~~2. 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 44703)~~ (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.~~

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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.
  - ~~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.
  - ~~2.~~—The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
3.
  - ~~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. ~~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. ~~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. ~~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. ~~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

~~10.~~ ~~(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. ~~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.~~

~~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/student, 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 TK-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

2.

~~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.

3.

~~(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 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.

~~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.

7.

~~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.

~~(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.

~~9.~~—The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.

10. —

~~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.

~~(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.

~~12.~~—A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.

13.

~~(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.

~~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.

~~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)

1. ~~1.~~—A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to course-based independent study pursuant to Education Code 51749.5
- ~~2.~~ ~~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.~~ ~~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.~~—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
- ~~4-5.~~ ~~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.
- ~~6-7.~~ ~~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.~~ ~~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.
- ~~8-9.~~ ~~9.~~—The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.

9.10.

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.

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.

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/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. 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.

~~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.~~

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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 signature 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)

~~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

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.~~

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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.  
~~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.  
~~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.  
~~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 days~~ [scheduled live interaction or synchronous instruction](#) shall be documented as non-participatory for that school day. (Education Code 51747.5)

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**

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; 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

#### 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/oo/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



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.

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
5 CCR 11700-11705	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
<b>Federal</b>	<b>Description</b>
20 USC 6301	Highly qualified teachers
20 USC 6311	State plan
<b>Management Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>
California Department of Education Publication	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	<a href="#">California Consortium for Independent Study</a>
Website	<a href="#">California Department of Education, Independent Study</a>
Website	<a href="#">Education Audit Appeals Panel</a>

**Cross References**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
0410	<a href="#">Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities</a>
0420.4	<a href="#">Charter School Authorization</a>
0420.4	<a href="#">Charter School Authorization</a>
0470	<a href="#">COVID-19 Mitigation Plan</a>
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5126	<a href="#"><u>Awards For Achievement</u></a>
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5141.22	<a href="#"><u>Infectious Diseases</u></a>
5141.22	<a href="#"><u>Infectious Diseases</u></a>
5141.31	<a href="#"><u>Immunizations</u></a>
5141.31	<a href="#"><u>Immunizations</u></a>
5144.1	<a href="#"><u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u></a>
5144.1	<a href="#"><u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u></a>
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5147	<a href="#"><u>Dropout Prevention</u></a>
6000	<a href="#"><u>Concepts And Roles</u></a>
6011	<a href="#"><u>Academic Standards</u></a>
6111	<a href="#"><u>School Calendar</u></a>
6112	<a href="#"><u>School Day</u></a>
6112	<a href="#"><u>School Day</u></a>
6142.4	<a href="#"><u>Service Learning/Community Service Classes</u></a>
6143	<a href="#"><u>Courses Of Study</u></a>
6143	<a href="#"><u>Courses Of Study</u></a>
6146.1	<a href="#"><u>High School Graduation Requirements</u></a>
6146.1	<a href="#"><u>High School Graduation Requirements</u></a>
6146.11	<a href="#"><u>Alternative Credits Toward Graduation</u></a>
6146.11	<a href="#"><u>Alternative Credits Toward Graduation</u></a>
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6162.5	<a href="#"><u>Student Assessment</u></a>
6162.51	<a href="#"><u>State Academic Achievement Tests</u></a>
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6172	<a href="#"><u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u></a>
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6185	<a href="#"><u>Community Day School</u></a>
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6200	<a href="#"><u>Adult Education</u></a>
6200	<a href="#"><u>Adult Education</u></a>

**Policy 6158: Independent Study**

Status: ADOPTED

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)

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 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
2. 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
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
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. 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.

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
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.
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.
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.
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 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 # 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, and by 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. 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.

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)

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 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.

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#### 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.

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
5 CCR 11700-11705	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
<b>Federal</b>	<b>Description</b>
20 USC 6301	Highly qualified teachers
20 USC 6311	State plan
<b>Management Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>
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Education Audit Appeals Panel  
Publication

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and State Compliance Reporting

Website

[California Consortium for Independent Study](#)

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5121	<a href="#">Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</a>
5125	<a href="#">Student Records</a>
5125	<a href="#">Student Records</a>
5126	<a href="#">Awards For Achievement</a>
5126	<a href="#">Awards For Achievement</a>
5141.22	<a href="#">Infectious Diseases</a>
5141.22	<a href="#">Infectious Diseases</a>

5141.31	<a href="#"><u>Immunizations</u></a>
5141.31	<a href="#"><u>Immunizations</u></a>
5144.1	<a href="#"><u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u></a>
5144.1	<a href="#"><u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u></a>
5146	<a href="#"><u>Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students</u></a>
5147	<a href="#"><u>Dropout Prevention</u></a>
6000	<a href="#"><u>Concepts And Roles</u></a>
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6111	<a href="#"><u>School Calendar</u></a>
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6142.4	<a href="#"><u>Service Learning/Community Service Classes</u></a>
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6172	<a href="#"><u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u></a>
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6183	<a href="#"><u>Home And Hospital Instruction</u></a>
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