

# Davis Joint USD

## Board Policy

### Independent Study

BP 6158

#### Instruction

The Governing Board of Education authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for eligible students, ~~including adult education 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 need to make up credits or fill gaps in their learning and enabling students to reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements. As necessary to meet student needs, independent study may be offered on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part- or full-time classroom study.

(cf. 51470420.4 -- Dropout Prevention Charter Schools)

(cf. 6011 -- Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

(~~617284 -- Gifted and Talented Student Program~~ Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

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, a home-based format, 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. Students participating in independent study shall have the right, at any time, to enter or return to the regular classroom mode of instruction. (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700)

Parents/guardians of students who are interested in independent study shall contact the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall approve independent study for an individual student only upon determining that the student is prepared to meet the district's requirements for independent study and is likely to succeed in independent study as well as or better than he/she would in the regular classroom setting.

~~The agreement for Independent Study is limited by law (S31563) to a maximum length of time~~

~~of one semester. At the end of each semester, the agreement may be renewed.~~ The minimum period of time for any independent study option ~~shall be~~ is five consecutive school days.   

### Written Agreements

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written ~~master agreement and, as appropriate, a learning agreement for students participating in course-based~~ independent study ~~agreement, as prescribed by law,~~ exists for each participating student as prescribed by law. Education Code 51747 provides that no independent study agreement can be valid for longer than one school year. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)

The ~~master~~written agreement shall specify the length of time in which each independent study assignment must be completed. Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind his/her peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be no more than is designated in the following paragraph. 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.

To foster each participating student's success in independent study, the Board establishes the following maximum lengths of time which may elapse between the date an assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assigned work:

1. One week for students in grades K-3
2. Two weeks for students in grades 4-8
3. Three weeks for students in grades 9-12, ~~continuation or adult education~~

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

### Student-Teacher Conferences

Supervising teachers should establish an appropriate schedule for student-teacher conferences in order to help identify students falling behind in their work or in danger of failing or dropping out of school. Teachers are expected to monitor student progress and work closely with each student to determine the amount and type of contact needed for the student to be successful in the program.

Missing appointments with the supervising teacher without valid reasons ~~also~~ may trigger an evaluation to determine whether the student should remain in independent study.

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

~~(cf. 0500 – Accountability)~~

~~(cf. 5121 – Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)~~

~~(cf. 6162.5 – Student Assessment)~~

### **Home-Based Independent Study**

The Superintendent or designee shall encourage parents/guardians desiring to teach their children at home to have their children participate in independent study. Such participation allows continued contact and cooperation between the school system and the home-based student and ensures that the student will be offered a standards-based education and substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to the district's classroom instruction.

### **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 or Superintendent shall determine areas for program improvement as needed.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.51 – State Academic Achievement Tests)

(cf. 6162.52 – High School Exit Examination)

### *Legal Reference:*

#### EDUCATION CODE

17289 Exemption for facilities

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

46200-46208 Instructional day and year

46300-46307.1 Methods of computing average daily attendance

47612.5 Independent study in charter schools

48204 Residency ~~based on parent employment~~

48206.3 Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities

48220 *Classes of children exempted*  
48340 *Improvement of pupil attendance*  
48915 *Expulsion; particular circumstances*  
48916.1 *Educational program requirements for expelled students*  
48917 *Suspension of expulsion order*  
[49011 Student fees](#)  
51225.3 *Requirements for high school graduation*  
51745-51749. ~~63~~ *Independent study programs*  
52206 *Gifted and talented education; use of independent study to augment program*  
52522 *Adult education alternative instructional delivery*  
~~52523 *Adult education as supplement to high school curriculum; criteria*~~  
56026 *Individuals 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*  
19819 *State audit compliance*  
**UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20**  
[6301 Highly qualified teachers](#)  
**COURT DECISIONS**  
*Modesto City Schools v. Education Audits Appeal Panel, (2004) 123 Cal.App.4th 1365*  
**EDUCATION AUDIT APPEALS PANEL DECISIONS**  
*Lucerne Valley Unified School District, Case No. 03-02 (2005)*

*Management Resources:*

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS**

[\*Independent Study Operations Manual, 2000 Edition\*](#)

*Elements of Exemplary Independent Study*

*Approaches to Satisfying No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 Teacher Requirements for Independent Study in Secondary Schools, January 28, 2010*

**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>*

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