

ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, August 4, 2021
Public Session - 4:00 PM
Closed Session - 5:00 PM
District Board Room, 500 Dyer St., Orcutt, CA 93455
Attendees are Required to Wear a Face Covering

CALL TO ORDER 4:00 P.M.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Adoption of August 4, 2021 Agenda

Moved _____ Second _____ Vote _____

C. **Public Comment Announcement**

The Board of Trustees welcomes comments about items appearing on today's agenda. The audience members wishing to address the Board during the Public Comment segment of the agenda are reminded to fill out a *Public Comment Form* and submit it prior to the time the presiding officer calls for Public Comment. Requests to speak can also be emailed to Julie Payne at jpayne@orcutt-schools.net and state that you want to make a public comment. Please indicate what agenda item you would like to speak about.

Speakers are allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to address the Board. The Board will limit any response to public comments to brief statements, referral to staff, or referral to a future board meeting.

A maximum of thirty (30) minutes is set aside for Public Comment; speakers are allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to address the Board on any items within the Board's jurisdiction in accordance with the Brown Act. The Board will limit any response to public comments to brief statements, referral to staff, or referral to a future board meeting.

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION

A. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

Action Item

1. **Board Policy 6158 Independent Study**

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the revision to Board Policy 6158 Independent Study for the first reading and that it be placed on the next Consent Agenda for the second reading.

Moved _____ Second _____ Vote _____

FACILITIES TOUR

CLOSED SESSION PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. This section of the agenda is intended for members of the public to address the Board of Trustees on items that are being considered in Closed Session. Those wishing to speak about items during are reminded to fill out a Request for Public Comment Form, which can be obtained from Julie Payne and submitted prior to the item the presiding officer calls for Closed Session Public comment. Requests to speak can also be emailed to Julie Payne at jpayne@orcutt-schools.net and state that you want to make a public comment. Please indicate what agenda item you would like to speak about.

Speakers are allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to address the Board. The Board will limit any response to public comments to brief statements, referral to staff, or referral to a future board meeting.

A maximum of thirty (30) minutes is set aside for Public Comment; speakers are allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to address the Board on any items within the Board's jurisdiction in accordance with the Brown Act. The Board will limit any response to public comments to brief statements, referral to staff, or referral to a future board meeting.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

- A. Adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing matters expressly authorized by Government Code Section 3549.1, 54956.95, 54957, and 54957.6.
1. Public Employment per Personnel Report.
 2. Public Employee Employment/Discipline/Dismissal/Release. (4)
 3. Conference with labor negotiator Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent and/or Susan Salucci
 - a. OEA
 - b. CSEA
 4. Conference with labor negotiators for unrepresented employees:
 - a. Certificated and Classified Management, and Confidential. Agency representative – Superintendent.
 - b. Superintendent. Agency representative – Board of Trustees
 5. Student disciplinary/expulsion matters.
 6. Conference with Legal Counsel: Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to California Government section 54956.9(d). (4)

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

- A. Public Report on Action Taken in Closed Session

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise noticed, the next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, 2021, with Closed Session beginning at 6:00 PM followed by Public Session at 6:30 PM in the District Office Board Room, 500 Dyer Street, Orcutt, CA.

ADJOURN

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (805) 938-8907. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the district to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. All documents related to the open session agenda are available for review 72 hours prior to the meeting at the Orcutt Union School District Office, 500 Dyer Street, Orcutt, CA.

Joseph Dana
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services



July 29, 2021

To: Dr. Holly Edds, District Superintendent
From: Joe Dana
Re: Update to Board Policy 6158

Background

We are submitting a necessary update of Board Policy 6158 regarding independent study. The proposed revisions reflect a new law, AB 130, that requires all school districts, for the 2021-2022 school year, to offer independent study to meet the educational needs of students unless a waiver is obtained and to adopt policy with specified components in order to generate apportionment for independent study. The new Board Policy updates the minimum period of time permitted for independent study to be three consecutive school days (charter schools' minimum period is one day), requires an evaluation to determine if the student should continue in independent study if the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress, and requires that content be aligned to grade level standards. The policy also is updated to include :

- The requirement for live interaction and/or synchronous instruction based on grade level;
- Tiered reengagement strategies for students not generating attendance for a specified period of time;
- Expeditious transition for students whose families who wish to return to in-person instruction;
- Notice to parents/guardians of specified information;
- The provision of a student-parent-educator conference, upon request, prior to enrollment and/or disenrollment; and
- The keeping of additional records including documentation of each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction on each school day, as applicable.

Policy updated to include material formerly in the Administrative Regulation regarding requirements for independent study and written agreements as well as new requirements regarding the same, including that written agreements must include a detailed statement of academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of particular students, that the agreement may be signed electronically as specified, and that, for the 2021-22 school year, the written agreement must be signed no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction. The policy also is updated to include material formerly in the AR regarding course-based independent study and to generally align the requirements of course-based independent study with the requirements for general independent study.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed update to Board Policy 6158.

Fiscal Impact

The district plans to address requests for independent study for the 2021-2022 school year through the Orcutt Academy Independent Study (OAIS) Program, which already is set up to deliver this option. The fiscal impact will be based on how many families request independent study for their children. If there are many, OAIS may need to add staff and purchase additional textbooks and materials to accommodate the demand.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

The Board of Trustees authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for eligible 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 basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part- or full-time classroom study.

- (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. 6200 - Adult Education)

The Superintendent or designee may provide a variety of independent study activities and/or 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.~~

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 governed by Education Code shall be ~~five~~ **three** consecutive school days (Charter Schools are not required to follow this timeline).

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General Independent Study Requirements

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

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.

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)

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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, 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 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,

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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, 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 51747)

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 exist for each participating student as prescribed by law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)~~

~~The master 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 one week 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 misses three assignments, unless the student's written agreement specifies a lower or higher number of missed assignments based on the nature of the assignments, the total number of assignments, and/or other unique circumstances.~~

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)

INDEPENDENT STUDY

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

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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.
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

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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.

6. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.

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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

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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.

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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)

INDEPENDENT STUDY**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)

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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.

~~Home-Based Independent Study~~

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

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 17289 Exemption for facilities
- 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
- 46300-46300.6 Methods of computing ADA
- 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
- 51745-51749.3 Independent study programs
- 56026 Individuals with exceptional needs

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

Instruction

BP 6158(m)

INDEPENDENT STUDY

[A.M. v. Albertsons, LLC, \(2009\) Cal.App.4th455](#)

EDUCATION AUDIT APPEALS PANEL DECISIONS

Lucerne Valley Unified School District, Case No. 03-02 (2005) Management Resources:

CDE PUBLICATIONS

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

[01-05 Guidelines for Piloting Textbooks and Instructional Materials, rev. January 2015](#)

WEB SITES

[The School Superintendents Association \(AASA\): https://aasa.org](https://aasa.org)

[California Consortium for Independent Study: http://www.ccis.org](http://www.ccis.org)

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

[Education Audit Appeals Panel: http://www.eaap.ca.gov](http://www.eaap.ca.gov)

Policy Adopted: ~~09/09/15~~ **08/11/21**

ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Orcutt, California