

**INDEPENDENT STUDY**

The Governing Board authorizes Independent Study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students in any school in the District. Independent Study provides a means for students to achieve curriculum objectives that meet district and California State Content Standards and graduation requirements outside the regular classroom.

Independent Study is a continuously voluntary, educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. Instruction may be provided only if the student is offered a classroom that is always available.

Independent Study shall offer a means of individualizing an educational learning plan for students whose needs may best be met through study independent of the regular classroom setting. The District shall provide and ensure Independent Study students the same access to existing services and resources as are available to all other students in the school in which the Independent Study students are enrolled.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine that the prospective Independent Study student understands the District's requirements for Independent Study and is prepared to meet them. As prescribed by California Education Code, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each participating student has an executed written Independent Study Agreement containing all required components. Independent Study Agreements, including Subsidiary Agreements, must be consistent with the District's adopted course of study. All laws and regulations that govern "regular" Independent Study apply to "short-term" Independent Study. An approved student may participate in "short-term" Independent Study twice a year for a total of not more than twenty (20) school days a year.

To help each student succeed in Independent Study, the Governing Board establishes the maximum length of time, by grade level and type of program, which may elapse between the time an Independent Study assignment is made and the date by which the student must submit the assigned work. For any school in the District, the student shall have four weeks (20 school days) to complete his or her assignment. When circumstances justify a longer period of time, the Superintendent or designee may approve a request from an Independent Study teacher to revise an Independent Study Agreement in order to extend the maximum length of an assignment.

When any student either misses a scheduled appointment or fails to complete an assignment for the third time in one academic semester, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in Independent Study. A written record of the findings of this evaluation shall be retained as prescribed according to law.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish administrative regulations to implement Independent Study in accordance with California Education Code.

Adopted: April 9, 1992

Revised: 8/93; 10/12/95; 11/16/95; 6/27/07; 9/24/08; 10/22/08

Reviewed: 11/15/94; 11/18/99

**WEST SONOMA COUNTY UHSD**

Sebastopol, California