

NP³ Independent Study Policy

Educational Opportunities

Educational opportunities through independent study will be offered when requested by the parent/guardian due to emergencies, illness or administrative approval. Independent study may be used on a short-term basis to ensure that the student is able to maintain academic progress in his /her regular classes.

No course required for high school graduation shall be offered exclusively through Independent Study.

Equivalency

The NP³ independent study option shall be substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to classroom instruction, thus enabling students participating in independent study to complete the adopted course of study within the customary time frame. Students in independent study shall have access to the same services and resources that are available to other students in the school. (5 CCR 11701.5)

The school shall not provide Independent Study students and their parents/guardian with funds or items of value that are not provided for other students and their parents/guardians. (Education Code 46300.6,51747.3)

Eligibility for Independent Study

Parents/guardians of students who are interested in Independent Study should contact the principal or designee. Approval for participation shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Evidence that the student will work independently to complete program
2. Availability of experienced certificated staff with adequate time to effectively supervise the student.

A student's participation in Independent Study shall be voluntary. (Education Code 51747)

A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in Independent Study unless his/her Individualized Education Program specifically provides for such participation. (Education Code 51745)

Independent Study (continued)

A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 by means of Independent Study. (Education Code 51745)

A written agreement shall be developed for each student participating in independent study for five or more school days (Education Code 46300, 51747)

A written Independent Study agreement for each participating student shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747)

1. The manner, frequency, time and place for submitting the student's assignments and for reporting his/her progress.
2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
3. The number of missed assignments that will be allowed before an evaluation is conducted to determine whether it is in the best interest of the student to remain in independent study, or whether he or she should return to the regular school program.
4. The specific resources, including materials and personnel that will be made available to the student.
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 semester.
6. If applicable, the number of course credits to be earned by the student.

The agreement also may include a schedule for achieving objectives, completing the agreement and a schedule of conferences between the student and supervising teacher.

Before beginning the Independent Study, each written agreement shall be signed and dated by the student, the parent/guardian or caregiver if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee designated as responsible for the general supervision of Independent Study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. (Education Code 51747)

The agreement shall state that the parent/guardian signature confers his/her permission for the student's Independent Study as specified in the agreement.