

Independent Study

The Office of Education may conduct independent study programs as an alternative to classroom instruction when deemed appropriate to meet the instructional needs of students enrolled in Humboldt County Office of Education programs. Participation in independent study is an educational alternative instructional strategy for eligible students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting.

The Office of Education's independent study program shall be substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to classroom instruction, thus enabling students enrolled 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 as are available to other students in the school. No funds or other things of value may be provided to independent study students that are not provided to other students in the school.

Any independent study program conducted by the Office of Education shall be coordinated, evaluated, and under the general, but not necessarily immediate, supervision of a certificated employee.

No individual with exceptional needs, as defined in Education Code Section 56026, may be enrolled in an independent study program unless his/her individualized education program specifically provides for such enrollment.

All independent study programs shall be conducted under a written agreement between the student, the teacher, and all other persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. The agreement shall be for a specified period of time of at least five consecutive days and not more than one semester and shall represent the equivalent of a minimum school day for the student's grade level for every school day covered by the agreement. The agreement shall be completed and signed by all parties prior to the commencement of independent study.

At minimum, the written agreement shall include all the required elements as specified in Education Code 51747.

To foster each student's success in independent study, the Board establishes the maximum length of time which may elapse between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assigned work as four (4) weeks for all grade levels. When circumstances justify a longer time, the Superintendent or designee may extend the maximum length of an assignment not to exceed eight (8) weeks, pursuant to a written request.

INSTRUCTION

Board Policy 6175(b)

In order to document a student's progress or failure to complete the work assigned, a letter reporting the student's hours of work and/or the percentage of work completed each month is prepared. This letter is sent home to the parents, and a copy is maintained in the student's school file. If the student fails to complete 85% of the assignments for any four (4) weeks, an evaluation will be conducted by the staff to determine student's eligibility to continue on the program. In general, failure to complete the assignments results in exiting the student from the program.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing administrative regulations that meet all the rules and regulations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1983 Community schools: courses of study; classes and programs

17289 Exemption for building

44865 Qualification for home teachers and teachers in special classes and schools; consent to assignment

46300-46300.6 Methods of computing ADA

48220 Classes of children exempted

48340 Improvement of pupil attendance

48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

48917 Suspension of expulsion order

51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation

51745-51749.3 Independent study programs

56026 Individual with exceptional needs

FAMILY CODE

6550 Authorization of affidavits

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11700-11703 Independent study

Management Resources:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

1113.09 Independent Study: New Legislation, SPB:90/91-04

0904.86 Independent Study, SPB: 86/7-5

Policy

Adopted: October 18, 1989

Revised: May 16, 2018

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Eureka, California**