

July 20, 2021

PARENT NOTIFICATION LETTER:
Independent Study Program (AB 130)
Retention, grade change and graduation requirements (AB 104)

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

On July 9th, the California Legislature approved two laws, (AB 130 and AB 104), that address an independent study option, student retention, grade change and graduation requirements. This notification provides information about each of those options. We encourage parents to work with their student's school to determine the best educational option for their student.

- I. **Independent Study Option (AB 130)** For the 2021-2022 school year, schools are required to offer an independent study option to be made available to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by their parent or guardian.

Option 1: For districts/LEAs providing IS within their district

For the 2021-22 school year, our district will provide Independent Study programs at Eureka Community School, Eel River Community School and Garberville Community School. Parents who are interested in this option may request a parent-teacher conference. Contact your teacher to set up an appointment and review the guidelines below.

Requesting a Parent-Teacher Conference

It is a parent's right to request a parent-teacher conference prior to enrolling their student in Independent Study in order to inform their decision and ensure that it is appropriate for their student. If your student is not already on Independent Study, please contact your teacher to set up a conference to make that change.

Enrolling, Disenrolling & Re-Enrolling

If the parent determines that they would like to pursue Independent Study, they can begin the enrollment process as usual. You will receive your class placement letter next week with the necessary information. Students who are enrolled in Independent Study and who would like to return to in-person instruction, must follow the procedure for disenrolling, by contacting your teacher to set up an appointment. Once disenrolled, students will have an opportunity to re-enroll, adhering to the re-enrollment process, through discussion with your teacher and principal.

Daily Live and Synchronous Instruction for Independent Studies

Independent Study provides instruction based on the state-adopted content standards by certificated teachers. There are specific requirements for instructional time that may include both synchronous and asynchronous work. These expectations will also be outlined in the

students' written Learning Agreement, which must be signed prior to enrollment in an independent study program.

- "Live interaction" means interaction between the student and school staff, and may include peers. Live interaction is provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness. This interaction may take place in person or in the form of internet or telephonic communication.
- "Synchronous instruction" means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communications and involving live, two-way communication between the teacher and student.

Kindergarten to grade 3	Daily synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year
Grades 4 to 8	Both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.
Grades 9 to 12	At least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.

II. Student retention

Parents may request in writing to set up a consultation with their student's administrator and teacher to review eligibility for retention for the 2021-22 school year. Once the school receives this written request, they must offer a consultation with parent, pupil, administrator and teacher within 30 calendar days. Following the consultation, the school is required to notify the parent of the final determination within 10 calendar days.

III. High school grade changes

For the 2020-21 school year only, a parent, guardian, or student (if 18 years old) may petition their school to change a deficient grade to P/NP on their transcript. Students/parents have 15 calendar days to submit an application after the notification date (July 31st). The school shall not accept applications after that deadline.

IV. Graduation requirements for 2020-2021 Junior and Seniors

Requires schools to exempt all students who were juniors or seniors in 2020-21 from their local high school graduation requirements if they were not on track to graduate in 4 years, and to give those students the opportunity for credit recovery or a 5th year to complete state graduation requirements. School staff will be working closely to determine which students may benefit from this option.