

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

The County Board of Education recognizes that independent study may be used as an instructional strategy to encourage students to continue their education. Therefore, the County Board authorizes independent study as a voluntary and optional educational alternative by which students may achieve curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements.

Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan for students whose needs may be best met through study outside the regular classroom setting. Teachers should carefully set the duration of independent study assignments to identify students falling behind in their work or in danger of failing or dropping out of school.

Independent study entails a commitment by both the parent/guardian and the student. As the student gets older, he/she assumes a greater portion of the responsibility for successfully completing his/her study program. The County Superintendent or designee shall determine that the prospective independent study student understands and is prepared to meet the County Office's requirements for independent study. This educational alternative may be offered only to students who have the potential to achieve in independent study as well as, or better than, they would in the regular classroom.

The written permission of the parent/guardian shall be obtained prior to the start of the student's independent study program, and shall specify the actual dates of participation, the methods of study and evaluation, and the resources available for independent study.

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written Master Agreement for Independent Study (Exhibit 6158.00a) with all the required elements and components exists for each participating student. In addition to other applicable independent study requirements prescribed in law (Education Code Sections 51747 through 51749.5), the agreement shall specify that:

- A. The maximum length of time a teacher may allow a student to complete an independent study assignment at any grade level is thirty (30) calendar days from the date the assignment is made by the teacher.
- B. When circumstances justify a longer time, the County Superintendent or designee may extend the thirty (30) calendar days to a period not to exceed eight (8) weeks, pursuant to a written request with justification.
- C. If a student fails to complete two (2) independent study **course** assignments within any weekly assignment period, the County Superintendent or designee shall evaluate whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in independent study. An independent study assignment shall be substantially equivalent to a regular Court Community School classroom assignment. Evaluation findings shall be kept in the student's permanent record.

The County Superintendent or designee has established Administrative Regulation BR 6158.00 for the implementation of independent study in accordance with law. [Education Code 35010(b)]

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

35010 *The governing board of each school district shall prescribe . . .*

39141.9 *Exemption for building*

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

46300-46300.6 *Methods of computing ADA*

48340 *Improvement of pupil attendance*

51225 *Requirements for high school graduation and diploma*

51225.3 *Requirements for high school graduation and diploma commencing with the 1986-87 school year*

51745-51749.5 *Independent study programs*

52000(e) *Improvement of elementary and secondary education: legislative intent*

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

52015 *School improvement plans: components of plan*
52017 *Secondary schools: additional plan components*
56026 *Individual with exceptional needs*
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
11700 *Definitions (independent study)*
11701 *District responsibilities*
11702 *Standards for independent study: agreements*
11703 *Records*

Management Resources:

PROGRAM ADVISORY
1113.90 *Independent study: New legislation, SPB: 90/91-04*
Independent study: SPB: 86/7-5

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Revised: August 17, 1998
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