

Instruction

## **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

### **Purpose**

The Governing Board recognizes its responsibility for the education of all students in the District. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy by which all enrolled students may reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements outside of the regular classroom setting.

The primary purpose for independent study is to offer a means of individualizing the educational plan for students whose needs may be met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent study may be used by all students who are motivated to achieve educationally as well as or better through this strategy than they would in the regular classroom.

### **Program Responsibilities**

The District shall provide appropriate existing services and resources to enable students to complete their independent study successfully and shall ensure the same access to all existing services and resources in the school in which the student is enrolled as is available to all other students in the school.

Students requesting independent study and their parents/guardians should recognize that independent study at the elementary level realistically must emphasize a commitment on the part of the student's parents/guardians. At the secondary level, the major commitment must be made by the student, assisted or supported as necessary by parents and others who may assist directly with instruction.

### **Written Independent Study Agreements and Contracts**

1. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each participating student has an executed written independent study agreement with the District as prescribed by law. Individual independent study agreements and any subordinate student contracts and assignments must be consistent with the District-adopted course of study.
2. The Superintendent or designee shall establish appropriate screening procedures to ensure that the necessary level of understanding and preparation exist to meet the conditions of the independent study agreement prior to its approval. The District Admission and Discharge Committee shall approve/disapprove requests for independent study placement.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY (continued)**

**Timelines for Completion of Assignments**

1. For all students in independent study, the maximum length of time which may elapse between the time the assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assigned work shall be listed in the independent study agreement.
2. An original representative work sample is one day's worth of assignments.
3. When any student fails to complete independent study assignments, he/she will be counseled as to possible disenrollment from the independent study program. Missing three assignments in any semester may warrant disenrollment from the independent study program.

**Additional Guidelines**

1. Students shall not be required to participate in independent study.
2. Courses required for high school graduation shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.
3. No individual with exceptional needs, as defined in Education Code 56026, may participate in independent study unless his/her individualized education program (IEP) specifically provides for that participation.

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

17289 Exemption for building

42238 Revenue Limits

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

46300-46300.7 Methods of computing ADA

47612.5 Independent study in charter schools

48204 Residency based on parent employment

48206.3 Home or hospital instruction; students with temporary disabilities

48220 Classes of children exempted

48340 Improvement of pupil attendance

48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances

48916.1 Educational program requirements for expelled students

48917 Suspension of expulsion order

51225.3 Requirements for High School Graduation and Diploma Commencing with the 1988-89 School Year

51745-51749.3 Independent Study Program

**INDEPENDENT STUDY** (continued)

*52050.5 Improvement of elementary and secondary education; legislative intent*  
*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:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

*1113.09 Independent Study: New Legislation, SPB: 90191-04*  
*904.86 Independent Study, SPB: 8617.5*

Policy  
adopted: February 8, 1999  
revised: October 16, 2006  
revised: February 11, 2008

**CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
San Juan Capistrano, California