

Board Policy – Independent Study
Board Policy 6158

The BRIDGES Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for eligible students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan and enabling students to reach curriculum objectives. As necessary to meet student needs, independent study may be offered on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part-time classroom study.

A student's participation in independent study shall be voluntary. Students participating in independent study shall have the right, at any time, to enter or return to the regular classroom mode of instruction. (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700)

Parents/guardians of students who are interested in independent study shall contact the Director, or designee. The Director or designee shall approve independent study for an individual student only upon determining that the student is prepared to meet BRIDGE's requirements for independent study and is likely to succeed in independent study as well as or better than he/she would in the regular classroom.

The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be four consecutive school days.

The Director or designee shall ensure that a written independent study agreement, as prescribed by law, exists for each participating student. (Education Code 51747)

The written agreement shall specify the length of time in which each independent study assignment must be completed. Because excessive leniency in the duration of independent study assignments may result in a student falling behind his/her peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, independent study assignments shall be no more than one week for all grade levels and types of program. However, when necessary based on the specific circumstances of the student's approved program, the Director or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due, up to the termination date of the agreement.

Supervising teachers should establish an appropriate schedule for student-teacher conferences in order to help identify students falling behind in their work or in danger of failing. Except in unusual circumstances, it is expected that the supervising teacher will meet, either in person or by electronic means, with each participating student to discuss the student's progress.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17289 Exemption for facilities

42238 Revenue limits

46300-46307.1 Methods of computing average daily attendance

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

56026 Individuals with exceptional needs

58500-58512 Alternative schools and programs of choice