

INDEPENDENT STUDY

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District provides a variety of educational programs and instructional strategies directed to meet the needs of all students in the District. The comprehensive high school provides a range of instructional programs to meet diverse student needs. However, students with unique learning styles are sometimes best served by alternative instructional opportunities not available at the comprehensive high school. The Board of Trustees is committed to make programs available that respond to the uniqueness of students while continuing to foster academic success and high school graduation. Independent study is one instructional strategy designed as an alternative to address student educational needs. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to establish independent study as an alternative instructional strategy through which high school students of all ages may achieve academically and meet District graduation requirements.

The primary purpose of independent study is to individualize the instructional experience for pupils with educational needs that are best met through study outside the regular classroom setting.

The District independent study program shall be administered by the principal of La Sierra High School and shall be operated consistent with the Education Code provisions governing an independent study program, including but not limited to the following:

1. The maximum length of time in independent study for grades 9 through 12 that may elapse between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assigned work shall be one week or the end of the semester, whichever comes first. The assignment must be turned in by the end of the following attendance week. [Education Code Section 51747(a)]
2. When special or extenuating circumstances justify a period longer than one week or justify extending the period beyond the semester, the Superintendent or designee may honor a request of a student or the student's parent/guardian to extend the maximum length up to an additional week. [Education Code Section 51747(a)]
3. A student failing to complete four independent study assignments during the semester or missing four appointments without valid reasons shall be subject to an evaluation conducted to determine whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study. A written record of the findings of the evaluation shall be maintained in the student's permanent record. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school. [Education Code Section 51747(b)]
4. A current written independent study agreement with all the required elements and components must be on file for each independent student. [Education Code 51747(c), 46300.7, and 11703(b)(3)].

The Superintendent or designee shall establish administrative rules and regulations to implement the independent study policy.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District
BP 6443(b)

Reference: Education Code Sections 39141.9, 44865, 45300.2, 46300(e), 46300.1, 46300.3, 46300.4, 46300.7, 48340, 48917, 51225.3, 51745, 51746, 51747, 51747.3, 5174(c)(4), 51747.5, 51749.5, 52000(e), 52015, 52017, 56026; California Administrative Code Title 5 Sections 11700, 11701, 11702, 11703

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