

The Accelerated Schools

Independent Study Board Policy

The Governing Board recognizes its responsibility for the education of all students enrolled in The Accelerated Schools (TAS). The Board authorizes the CEO to establish an Independent Study program as an alternative educational process that allows a student to remain continuously enrolled in school when the student cannot attend school on a daily basis.

The Independent Study program shall comply with the following:

- Students enrolling in Independent Study must also meet all enrollment and residency criteria as other students as prescribed by law.
- No course required for high school graduation shall be offered exclusively through independent study.
- Any student (including students with IEPs) may participate in short-term Independent Study if that student is in quarantine (maximum of 15 days). Students with IEPs may participate for a longer period of time only if that student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) specifically provides for that participation, as defined in Education Code 56026.
- TAS 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 enrolled students.

Students and parents/guardians requesting Independent Study should recognize that a major commitment must be made by the student. Support and participation of parents/guardians or others who may assist directly with instruction is highly encouraged.

The CEO or designee shall annually report to the Board the number of students participating in independent study, the average daily attendance (ADA) generated, for apportionment purposes, the quality of these students' work as measured by standard indicators, and the number and proportion of independent study students who graduate or successfully complete independent study (if a student is participating in long term independent study). The CEO or designee shall establish regulations to implement this policy in accordance with law.

Written Agreement and Contracts

The CEO or designee shall ensure that each participating student has an executed written independent study agreement with TAS as prescribed by law. This agreement shall be maintained on file and include, but not limited to, all of the following:

1. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a pupil's assignments and for reporting his or her progress.
2. The objectives and methods of study for the pupil's work, and the methods utilized to evaluate that work.
3. The specific resources, including materials and personnel, that will be made available to the pupil.

4. The duration of the independent study agreement (not to exceed one semester or half of the school year), including the beginning and ending dates for the pupil's participation in independent study under the agreement.
5. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the pupil upon completion.
6. The inclusion of a statement in each independent study agreement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate.
7. Each written agreement shall be signed by the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or caregiver (If the pupil is less than 18 years of age; the certificated employee or support personnel who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil.
8. Longer term independent study programs must meet all applicable laws and regulations and must be approved by the CEO or designee who oversees the program.