

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD POLICY NO. 6158

ADOPTED: 02/24/97

CLASSIFICATION: Curriculum/Instruction

REVISED: 08/11/00

SUBJECT: Independent Study

The Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy by which students may reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the education plan for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent study entails a commitment by both the parent/guardian and the student.

Independent study may be offered only to students who can achieve in this program as well as or better than they would in the regular classroom.

The Superintendent shall ensure that a written independent study agreement, as prescribed by law, exists for each participating student. The Board recognizes that independent study may be used as an option to encourage students to remain in school. Teachers should carefully set the duration of independent study assignments in order to help identify students falling behind in their work or in danger of failing or dropping out of the program.

To foster each student's success in independent study, the Board establishes the following maximum lengths of time which may elapse before an independent study assignment receives final evaluation:

1. Individualized alternative education designed to teach the knowledge and skills of the core curriculum:
Students in grades K-3: one week
Students in grades 4-8: two weeks
Students in grades 9-12: three weeks

Student work may be reviewed on a weekly basis to assure that progress is being made on completion of the student contract.

2. Special assignments extending the content of regular courses of instruction:
Students in grades K-3: two weeks
Students in grades 4-8: four weeks
Students in grades 9-12: six weeks
3. Continuing and special study during travel:
Students in grades K-3: three weeks
Students in grades 4-8: six weeks
Students in grades 9-12: ten weeks

When circumstances justify a longer time, the Superintendent may honor the request of an individual student or his/her parent/guardian to extend the maximum length of an assignment as follows:

Students in grades K-3:	four weeks
Students in grades 4-8:	eight weeks
Students in grades 9-12:	twelve weeks

When any student fails to complete two consecutive independent study assignments, the Superintendent shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in independent study. Evaluation findings shall be kept in the student's permanent record.

Students in independent study shall have access to the same services and resources of the school in which they are enrolled as is available to other students in the school.

No individual with exceptional needs, as defined in Education Code 56026, may participate in independent study, unless his or her individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.

Students 19 or 20 years of age may not claim K-12 ADA unless they have been continuously enrolled in school since their eighteenth birthday.

In computing the average daily attendance of a school district, there shall also be included the attendance of pupils participating in independent study for five or more consecutive school days.

Any student who resides outside the local or adjoining county should be prevented from participation in independent study.

The Superintendent shall annually report to the Board the number of students in each type of independent study program, the ADA generated, the quality of these students' work as measured by the teacher's evaluation, and the number of independent study students who graduate or successfully complete their program.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

39141.9	Exemption for building
41976.2	Independent study funding
44865	Qualifications of teachers
46300-46300.6	Average Daily Attendance, General Provisions
46300.1-46300.2	Independent Study Apportionments
48206.3	Instruction for temporarily disabled students
48220	Classes of children exempted
51225.3	Requirements for high school graduation
51745-51749.5	Independent study programs
56026	Individuals with exceptional needs

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11700	Definitions (independent study)
11701	District Responsibilities
11702	Standards for independent study; agreements
11703	Records