



Book	Board Policies and ARRs
Section	6000 Instruction
Title	Independent Study
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The Sacramento County Board of Education (Board) authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy by which ~~students~~ pupils may reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan for ~~students~~ pupils whose needs may be best met through study outside the regular school program ~~classroom setting~~. A ~~student's~~ A pupil's participation in independent study shall be voluntary, ~~Students~~ and pupils participating in independent study shall have the right, ~~at any time, to enter or return to the regular classroom mode of in-~~ person instruction at any time.

When a request is received for independent study from a parent or guardian (or from a ~~student~~ pupil who is an adult or emancipated minor), the Superintendent, or designee, shall determine whether the prospective independent study ~~student~~ pupil understands and is prepared to meet the Sacramento County Office of Education's (SCOPE) requirements for independent study. Independent study may be offered only to students who can achieve in this program as well or better than they would in the regular classroom. SCOPE's independent study program shall provide participating pupils with standards-aligned content substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to in-person instruction. For high school pupils, this shall include access to all courses offered by SCOPE for graduation and approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the A-G admissions criteria.

Independent study for each pupil shall be under the general supervision of a SCOPE employee who possesses a valid certification document pursuant to Education Code 44865 or an emergency credential pursuant to Education Code 44300. Pupils' independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and documented, as prescribed by law and reflected in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Furthermore, the The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written master independent study agreement and a course-based learning agreement exists for each participating pupil student, and is are maintained in the student's pupil's file, as prescribed by law.

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~~ pupil falling behind his/her peers and increase the risk of dropping out of school, the maximum length of time

allowed between the time an independent study assignment is given and the date by which the ~~student~~ **pupil** must submit the assigned work shall be no more than ~~20~~ **25** school days for **all SCOE programs and grade levels offering independent study** Community School Grades 7-12. However, when necessary based upon the specific circumstances of the ~~student's~~ **pupil's** approved program, the Superintendent or designee may allow for a longer period of time between the date an assignment is made and when it is due, **not to extend beyond the termination date specified in the pupil's written agreement.** ~~not to exceed six weeks.~~

When a participating student **pupil** misses three assignments **or is not making satisfactory educational progress**, an evaluation shall be conducted to determine whether it is in the **pupil's** ~~student's~~ best interest to remain in independent study. Missing appointments with the supervising teacher without valid reasons may also trigger an evaluation to determine whether the ~~student~~ **pupil** should remain in independent study.

**A pupil-parent-educator conference shall be held as appropriate, including when requested by a parent, as a reengagement strategy, and prior to enrollment or disenrollment from independent study.**

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop Administrative Rules and Regulations to implement this Board Policy. **This policy will apply to independent study offered as of the 2022-2023 school year.**

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

**44300 Emergency teaching or specialist permits**

**44865 Qualifications for teachers for special schools**

51745 et seq. Independent Study

**51747 Conditions for eligibility to receive apportionment**

**51747.5 Coordination, evaluation, and supervision**

TITLE 5, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

11700 et seq. Independent Study