

ENROLLMENT

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT STUDIES AMENDMENTS PER AB/SB 130

For the 2021-22 school year only, school districts are required to offer students independent study. Under A.B. 130, a school district must offer independent study for a pupil whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian for the 2021- 2022 school year only. For special education students, participation in independent study continues to be subject to IEP team determination as already provided in the law.

The amendments to independent study enacted under A.B. 130 require the following:

(a) Independent study will now be offered to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the student's parent or guardian.

(b) Students who enroll in independent study will be expected to participate in the following:

1. Grades TK-3: Daily synchronous instruction, and asynchronous instruction as required by the student's teacher

2. Grades 4-8: Daily live interactions, at least weekly synchronous instruction, and asynchronous instruction as required by the student's teacher

Additional information regarding the instructional time that students will be expected to participate in, as well as the curriculum and nonacademic supports available to students in independent study will be provided during the pupil-parent educator conference described in Section (f), below.

(c) A-G courses and any courses required for graduation must be offered and be aligned to grade-level standards.

(d) Tiered re-engagement procedures must be implemented for students who are not in attendance for more than three school days or 60% of instructional days in a school week, or who are in violation of their written learning agreement. These procedures must include at least the following:

1. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled pupil.

2. Notification to parents or guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation.

3. A plan for outreach from the school to determine pupil needs, including connection with health and social services as necessary.

4. A clear standard for requiring a pupil-parent-educator conference to review a pupil's written agreement, and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the pupil's achievement and well-being.

(e) The following rights and procedures will apply to students who wish to enroll, disenroll, and re-enroll in independent study:

1. For enrollment in a course-based independent study program, a learning agreement must be signed by the student (or the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is not at least 18 years old), the teacher who will be responsible for the general supervision of the student, and all other persons who will be directly responsible for providing assistance to the student before the student can begin receiving instruction in the course-based independent study program;

2. For enrollment in a traditional independent study program, an independent study agreement must be signed by the student (or the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is not at least 18 years old), the teacher who will be responsible for the general supervision of the student, and all other persons who will be directly responsible for providing assistance to the student no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction;

3. Parents and guardians have a right to request a pupil-parent-conference, as described in Section (f), below, before enrollment in an independent study program;

4. A plan must be put in place to transition students who wish to return to in person instruction expeditiously upon parent request (no later than 5 instructional days).

For more information regarding these procedures or the independent study programs available, please contact **Terry Hirschfield, Superintendent,** thirschfield@orangecenter.org or at (559)237-0437

(f) Before signing a learning agreement, a parent or guardian of a student can request a phone, videoconference, or in-person pupil-parent-educator conference or other school meeting where the student, parent or guardian, or, if requested, an education advocate, may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum and nonacademic supports will be available to the student through independent study before making a decision about enrollment or disenrollment in the various options for learning.

(g) A student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction must be documented on each school day, as applicable, in whole or in part, for which independent study is provided.

(h) Written or computer-based evidence of student engagement must be maintained for each course and student, including a grade book or summary document that, for each course, lists all assignments, examinations, and associated grades.

(i) Participation in independent study is optional and no student is required to participate.