

# **CVUSD**

## **Administrative Regulation**

AR 6158

### **Independent Study**

#### **Instruction**

##### Educational Opportunities

Educational opportunities offered through independent study may include, but are not limited to: (Education Code 51745)

1. Special assignments extending the content of regular courses of instruction  
(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
2. Individualized study in a particular area of interest or in a subject not currently available in the regular school curriculum
3. Individualized alternative education designed to teach the knowledge and skills of the core curriculum, but not provided as an alternative curriculum

4. Continuing and special study during travel

(cf. 5112.3 - Student Leave of Absence)

5. Volunteer community service activities that support and strengthen student achievement

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter Schools)

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)

In addition, when requested by a parent/guardian due to an emergency, vacation, or illness, independent study may be used on a short-term basis to ensure that the student is able to maintain academic progress in his/her regular classes.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

No course required for high school graduation shall be offered exclusively through independent study. (Education Code 51745)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

## Equivalency

The district's independent study option shall be substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to classroom instruction to enable participating students to complete the district's adopted course of study within the customary time frame. Students in independent study shall have access to the same services and resources that are available to other students in the school and shall have equal rights and privileges. (5 CCR 11700, 11701.5)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

The district shall not provide independent study students and their parents/guardians with funds or items of value that are not provided for other students and their parents/guardians. (Education Code 46300.6, 51747.3)

## Eligibility for Independent Study

Provided that experienced certificated staff is available to effectively supervise students in independent study, the Superintendent or designee may approve the participation of a student who demonstrates the motivation, commitment, organizational skills, and academic skills necessary to work independently. A student whose academic performance is not at grade level may participate in independent study only if the school is able to provide appropriate support, such as supplemental instruction, tutoring, counseling, ongoing diagnostic assessments, and/or differentiated materials, to enable the student to be successful. For an elementary student, the Superintendent or designee may consider the parent/guardian's level of commitment to assist the student.

A student participating in independent study must be a resident of the county or an adjacent county. Full-time independent study shall not be available to students whose district residency status is based on their parent/guardian's employment within district boundaries pursuant to Education Code 48204. (Education Code 46300.2, 51747.3)

(cf. 5111.12 - Residency Based on Parent/Guardian Employment)

For a student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, participation in independent study shall be approved only if his/her individualized education program specifically provides for such participation. (Education Code 51745)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 by means of independent study. (Education Code 51745)

(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)

Students age 21 or older, and students age 19 or older who have not been continuously enrolled in school since their 18th birthday, may participate in independent study only through the adult education program for the purpose of enrolling in courses required for a high school diploma by Education Code 51225.3 or the Governing Board. (Education Code 46300.1, 46300.4)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

No more than 10 percent of the students enrolled in a continuation high school or opportunity school or program, not including pregnant and parenting students who are primary caregivers for one or more of their children, shall be eligible for apportionment credit for independent study. (Education Code 51745)

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

### Written Agreements

A written agreement shall be developed and implemented for each student participating in independent study for five or more consecutive school days. (Education Code 46300, 51747)

The agreement shall include general student data, including the student's name, address, grade level, birth date, school of enrollment, and program placement.

The independent study agreement for each participating student also shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following: (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700)

1. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting the student's assignments and for reporting his/her progress
2. The objectives and methods of study for the student's work and the methods used to evaluate that work
3. The specific resources, including materials and personnel that will be made available to the student
4. A statement of the Board's policy detailing the maximum length of time allowed between an assignment and its completion and the number of missed assignments which will trigger an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study
5. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the student's participation in independent study under the agreement, with a maximum of one semester or one-half year if the school is on a year-round calendar

6. A statement of the number of course credits or, for an elementary student, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion
7. A statement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate
8. In the case of a suspended or expelled student who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Education Code 48915 or 48917, a statement that instruction may be provided through independent study only if the student is offered the alternative of classroom instruction

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

The district shall offer a course-based independent study program for students in grades K-12 subject to the following requirements: (Education Code 51749.5)

1. Courses shall be taught under the general supervision of certificated employees who hold the appropriate subject matter credential and are employed by the district or by another district, charter school, or county office of education with which the district has a memorandum of understanding to provide the instruction.
2. Courses shall be certified by Board resolution to be of the same rigor and educational quality as equivalent classroom-based courses and shall be aligned to all relevant local and state content standards. This certification shall, at a minimum, include the duration, number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for each school day that student is enrolled, number of equivalent total instructional minutes, and number of course credits for each course, consistent with that of equivalent classroom-based courses.
3. Students enrolled in these courses shall meet the applicable age requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.1 and 46300.4 and the applicable residency and enrollment requirements established pursuant to Education Code 46300.2, 48204, and 51747.3.
4. Teachers shall communicate with each student in person, by telephone, or by any other live visual or audio connection at least twice per calendar month to assess whether the student is making satisfactory educational progress. For this purpose, satisfactory educational progress includes, but is not limited to, applicable statewide accountability measures and the completion of assignments, examinations, or other indicators that the student is working on assignments, learning required concepts, and progressing toward successful completion of the course, as determined by the teacher providing instruction.

Written or computer-based evidence of satisfactory educational progress shall be retained for each course and student, including, at a minimum, a grade book or summary document that lists all assignments, examinations, and associated grades for each course.

If satisfactory educational progress is not being made, the teacher shall notify the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, his/her parent/guardian. The teacher shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the course or whether he/she should be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program. A written record of the evaluation findings shall be a mandatory interim student record maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. If the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

5. Examinations shall be administered by a proctor.
6. Statewide testing results shall be reported and assigned to the school at which the student is enrolled and shall be included in the aggregate results of the district. Test results also shall be disaggregated for purposes of comparisons with the test results of students enrolled in classroom-based courses.
7. A student shall not be required to enroll in courses included in this program.
8. The student-teacher ratio in the courses in this program shall meet the requirements of Education Code 51745.6.
9. For each student, the combined equivalent daily instructional minutes for courses in this program and all other courses shall meet applicable minimum instructional day requirements, and the student shall be offered the minimum annual total equivalent instructional minutes pursuant to Education Code 46200-46208.
10. Courses required for high school graduation or for admission to the University of California or California State University shall not be offered exclusively through independent study.
11. A student participating in this program shall not be assessed a fee that is prohibited by Education Code 49011.
12. A student shall not be prohibited from participating in independent study solely on the basis that he/she does not have the materials, equipment, or Internet access necessary to participate in the course.

Before enrolling a student in a course within this program, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student and, if the student is under age 18 years, his/her parent/guardian with a written learning agreement that includes all of the following: (Education Code 51749.6)

1. A summary of the district's policies and procedures related to this program
2. The duration of the enrolled course(s) and the number of course credits for each

enrolled course, consistent with the Board certifications made pursuant to item #2 above

3. The duration of the learning agreement, which shall not exceed a school year or span multiple school years
4. The learning objectives and expectations for each course, including, but not limited to, a description of how satisfactory educational progress is measured and when a student evaluation is required to determine whether the student should remain in the course or be referred to an alternative program, which may include, but is not limited to, a regular school program
5. The specific resources, including materials and personnel that will be made available to the student
6. A statement that the student is not required to enroll in courses in this program
7. Signatures of the student, the student's parent/guardian if the student is under age 18 years, and all teachers providing instruction

The student's or parent/guardian's signature shall constitute permission for the student to receive instruction through independent study. (Education Code 51749.6)

The Superintendent or designee shall retain a physical or electronic copy of the signed learning agreement for at least three years and as appropriate for auditing purposes. (Education Cod

#### Monitoring Student Progress

Independent study students who are late, miss scheduled conferences, or do not submit assigned work on time shall not be reported as tardy or truant.

However, the independent study administrator and/or supervising teacher shall promptly and directly address any failure by the student to meet the terms of his/her written agreement. The following supportive strategies may be used:

1. A letter to the student and/or parent/guardian
2. A meeting between the student and the teacher and/or counselor
3. A meeting between the student and the independent study administrator, including the parent/guardian if appropriate
4. An increase in the amount of time the student works under direct supervision

When the student has missed the number of assignments specified in the written agreement as precipitating an evaluation, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether or not independent study is appropriate for the student. This evaluation may result in termination of the independent study agreement and the

student's return to a regular school program or other alternative program.

A written record of the findings of any such evaluation shall be treated as a mandatory interim student record which shall be maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. (Education Code 51747)

#### Responsibilities of Independent Study Administrator

The responsibilities of the independent study administrator shall be to:

1. Ensure that the district's independent study option is operated in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation and is substantially equal in quality and quantity to the classroom instruction
2. Obtain and maintain current information and skills required for the operation of an independent study program that meets established standards for the district's educational programs
3. Develop and manage the budget for independent study
4. Authorize the selection of certificated staff to be assigned as independent study teachers
5. Supervise any staff assigned to independent study functions that are not regularly supervised by another administrator
6. Approve or deny the participation of students requesting independent study
7. Facilitate the completion of written independent study agreements
8. Assure a smooth transition for students into and out of the independent study mode of instruction
9. Approve all credits earned through independent study and forward the information to the appropriate staff so that the information becomes part of the student's record
10. Complete or coordinate the preparation of all records and reports required by law, Board policy, or administrative regulation

#### Assignment and Responsibilities of Independent Study Teachers

Each student's independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and carried out under the general supervision of a certificated employee who consents to the assignment. (Education Code 44865, 51747.5; 5 CCR 11700)

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

The principal and independent study administrator may recommend and the Superintendent shall approve the assignment of teachers to directly supervise independent study and/or work with students on specific subject matter. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that independent study teachers have access to professional development and support comparable to classroom-based teachers.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

The ratio of student average daily attendance to full-time equivalent certificated employees responsible for independent study shall not exceed the equivalent ratio for all other education programs in the district. (Education Code 51745.6)

The responsibilities of the supervising teacher shall be to:

1. Complete designated portions of the written independent study agreement and add additional information to the written agreement when appropriate
2. Supervise and approve coursework
3. Design lesson plans and make assignments
4. Maintain records of student assignments showing the date the assignment is given and the date the assignment is due
5. Provide direct instruction and counsel as necessary for individual student success
6. Regularly meet with the student to discuss the student's progress
7. Judge the time value of assigned work or work products completed and submitted by the student
8. Assess student work and determine and assign grades or other approved measures of achievement
9. Select and save representative samples of the student's completed and evaluated assignments for each subject, signed or initialed and dated in accordance with item #3 in the section on "Records" below. One sample per course listed on the master agreement. Sample must not be an exam.
10. Maintain a daily or hourly attendance register in accordance with item #4 in the section on "Records" below
11. Maintain any other required records and files on a current basis

Records



The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that records are maintained for audit purposes. These records shall include, but not be limited to: (Education Code 51748; 5 CCR 11703)

1. A copy of the Board policy, administrative regulation, and other procedures related to independent study.
2. A separate listing of the students, by grade level, program, and school, who have participated in independent study. This listing shall identify units of the curriculum attempted and units of the curriculum completed by students in grades K-8 and identify course credits attempted by and awarded to students in grades 9-12 and in adult education, as specified in their written agreements.
3. A file of all agreements, with representative samples of each student's work products bearing the supervising teacher's signed or initialed and dated notations indicating that he/she has personally evaluated the work or that he/she has personally reviewed the evaluations made by another certificated teacher.
4. A daily or hourly attendance register, as appropriate to the program in which the students are participating, separate from classroom attendance records, and maintained on a current basis as time values of student work products judged by a certificated teacher, and reviewed by the supervising teacher if they are two different persons.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

The above records shall be maintained for three years, excluding the current fiscal year.

The Superintendent or designee also shall maintain a record of grades and other evaluations issued to each student for independent study assignments.

Each school shall maintain records for the students at that school.

A written record of the findings of any evaluation conducted after the student has missed the number of assignments specified in Board policy shall be treated as a mandatory interim student record which shall be maintained for three years from the date of the evaluation. (Education Code 51747)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

#### Independent Study Program - Physical Education

The Conejo Valley Unified School District will allow students to be exempted from regular physical education classes if they are participating in an approved Independent Study Physical Education Program.

##### A. Criteria and Eligibility

1. Independent Study Physical Education is to be taken from a Conejo Valley Unified School District approved school or program with professionally trained and experienced personnel.
2. The Independent Study agency must submit an application and receive District approval before a student may apply for approval to participate in the program and receive Independent Study credit.
3. The Independent Study agency must submit a Conejo Valley Unified School District Hold Harmless Agreement-Independent Study PE form to the District, and receive District approval, before a student may be approved to participate in the program and receive Independent Study credit.
4. Independent Study Physical Education must develop proficiency, knowledge, and skills that cannot be achieved within an in-school program. For approval of Independent Study Physical Education, a student must be performing at an advanced level of competency and/or performance and be individually ranked at the National, Olympic, or Elite level. (Students on travel teams, club teams, etc. do not qualify for Independent Study Physical Education)
5. Applicants must be in grades 7-12, have an overall grade point average of 2.0, and have received physical education credit with a grade of C or better for the two quarters/trimesters preceding the period for which the original request is made. Students must maintain an overall 2.0 grade point average to continue in the Independent Study Physical Education Program.
6. The time spent in instruction must equal or exceed a minimum of ten (10) hours per week of supervised direct training.
7. Independent Study Physical Education must continue for a complete semester or year.
8. A contract between the activity participant and his/her home school must be completed and include the following:
  - a. A schedule and location(s) of the off-campus sports program activities.
  - b. A copy of the student's anticipated and/or current regular school class schedule.
  - c. A summary of the student's grades earned in the regular school program for at least one (1) year prior to the request.
  - d. A statement of learning objectives and competencies to be met.
  - e. The method of evaluation of the objectives.
  - f. The duration of the contract.
  - g. The manner, time, and place of reporting student progress and attendance.
  - h. The signature of the professional certified instructor of the activity who will be assisting the student.

- i. The signature of the student and parent.
  - j. The signature of the principal.
  - k. The signature of the physical education department chairperson, or his/her designee, who will be the Independent Study Physical Education School Supervisor.
  - l. Indication of personal insurance provider, group number and identification number.
  - m. A resume of the instructor's qualifications and experience.
9. Independent Study Physical Education will be graded on a pass/fail grading system.
10. Any of the State-mandated tests must be completed before credit can be given.

B. Independent Study Physical Education Agency

1. Off-campus schools, institutions, clubs, organizations, and instructors shall provide written evidence of background and experience to the District in a written application to request District authorization to serve students in an Independent Study Physical Education Program.
2. Off-campus schools, institutions, clubs, organizations, and instructors must include on the application their assumption of responsibility for the quality of instruction, dates and times of meetings, attendance records, immediate supervision of the student, and evaluation of the student's performance and progress.
3. The off-campus schools, institutions, clubs, organizations, and instructors must be willing to cooperate fully with the District in the conduct of the program.
4. The District requires that both the instructor and the agency submit a Conejo Valley Unified School District Hold Harmless Agreement-Independent Study PE form to the District, and receive District approval, before a student may be approved to participate in the program and receive Independent Study credit.

C. Student Procedures

1. The form (Independent Study Physical Education Contract) must be completed and signed by the student, parent, or legal guardian, the person (other than school staff) who will be assisting the student, and the physical education supervisor. The form will be signed and approved by the principal or principal's designee.
2. After the form is completed and signed, three copies of the form shall be distributed as follows:
  - a. A copy in the cumulative file of the student.
  - b. A copy to the student and parents.

c. A copy maintained by the physical education school supervisor of the student.

3. Upon approval of the Independent Study Physical Education Contract, the physical education school supervisor will assist in the development of an educational plan for each student, monitor each plan on a regular basis, maintain appropriate attendance records to verify minimum attendance requirements, maintain communication with the student and independent study instructor(s) who is (are) in regular contact with the student, and maintain records and prepare reports as required by the District and State.

4. The student shall meet with the Independent Study Physical Education school supervisor on a regular basis to discuss the program and evaluate student progress.

D. Appeal of Decision

A parent/guardian may appeal the decision of the principal:

1. The appeal shall be made in writing to the Director, Secondary Education.
2. The Director, Secondary Education, shall review the appeal and:
  - a. Overturn the decision; or,
  - b. Present the appeal to a committee composed of the Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services; the Director, Secondary Education; and a high school principal
3. The decision of the committee shall be final and binding.

E. Transportation and Other Costs

1. Transportation of the student to and from the Independent Study Physical Education Program is the responsibility of the student and parent.
2. The District will not be expected to provide any instructional supplies, textbooks, equipment, or other materials for the Independent Study Physical Education Program and/or activities.
3. There will be no cost incurred to the District for a student's participation in any program covered by these regulations.

CSBA (2/99 3/05) 7/10

CVUSD (8/08 6/09) 3/11 9/16

Reference AR R334.9 Independent Study Program - Physical Education (9/96)