



Independent Study

AB 130 & SB 130

Today's Agenda

AB/SB 130
Independent Study

Resources

Q & A

Hot Topic Independent Study Changes

New legislation requires that local educational agencies (LEAs):

1. Revise their board policies
2. Revise written agreements (Traditional IS)
3. Develop learning agreement (Course-based IS)
4. Provide opportunities for live interaction and synchronous instruction
5. For the 2021–22 school year only, school districts and county offices of education (COEs) shall offer IS as an educational option

Alternative Arrangements

LEA may contract with a county office of education or **enter into an interdistrict transfer agreement** with another school district.

Waiver

May be waived by the county Superintendent if **both**:

- ← Offering Independent Study would create an unreasonable burden
- ← The governing board does **not** have the option to enter into an interdistrict transfer agreement with another school district or to contract with a county office of education to provide an independent study option.



CONTINUING REGULATIONS

Independent Study: Continuing Regulations

The following Independent Study regulations in AB 130 are carried over from existing Ed. Code:



An alternative to classroom instruction
Not an alternative curriculum



Two types of programs:

Traditional:
Designed to teach the knowledge and skills of the core curriculum

Ed. Code 51745



Course-Based:
Individualized study in a particular area of interest or in a subject not currently available in the regular school curriculum

Ed. Code 51749.5



Available to students TK-12
Staffing ratios for I.S. are defined by Ed. Code

Ed. Code 51745.6

Ed. Code 51749.5 (a)(11)



Voluntary enrollment
LEAs cannot require students to enroll in independent study

Ed. Code 51747(c)(7)

Ed. Code 51749.5(a)(10)



Special Needs Students* cannot participate in independent study
Unless the IEP specifically allows for such participation

*As defined by Ed. Code 56026



NEW REGULATIONS

Independent Study: New Ed. Code in AB 130

The following Independent Study regulations in AB 130 are NEW:



I.S. can be offered to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction

I.S. can be offered to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, **as determined by the parent/guardian of the student**

Ed. Code 51745(a)(6)



New requirements for district independent study policies

- Live interaction and synchronous instruction requirements will vary based on grade spans: TK-3, 4-8, and 9-12.
- Course access provisions (A-G courses and any courses required for graduation must be offered)
- Tiered re-engagement procedures
- Plan to transition students who wish to return to in-person expeditiously (no later than 5 days)

Ed. Code 51747



New requirements for documenting and reporting participation

- Document each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction for each day of I.S.
- LEA must maintain written or computer-based evidence of pupil engagement

Ed. Code 51747.5(b)-(e), 51749(b), and 32091(1)(D)

2021-22 Year IS Parent Engagement



School districts and COEs are required to **notify parents and guardians** of all enrolled pupils of their options to enroll in in-person or independent study.

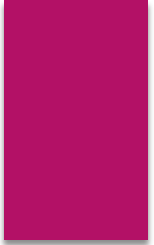
Ed Code 51747(h)(1)

Conference between the LEA and parent/guardian prior to enrolling or disenrolling a pupil from any learning option, **if** requested by the parent or guardian.

Ed Code 51747(h)(1)

LEAs have **30 days** after the first day of instruction to obtain signed written agreements.
(Master Agreements)

Ed Code 51749.6 (a)

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- **Pupil-parent-educator conference:** A meeting involving, at a minimum, all parties who signed the student's written IS agreement pursuant to subdivision (g) of *EC* Section 51747 or the written learning agreement pursuant to subdivision (b) of *EC* Section 51749.6. (*AB 130*)

NEW BOARD POLICY

If you are offering IS direct through your LEA and not doing an Interdistrict Transfer Agreement



Traditional Independent Study: Board Policies (1 of 3)

- Adopted board policies shall include:
 - Length of time from date an assignment is made and date it must be completed
 - Level of satisfactory educational progress (SEP) and number of missed assignments before an evaluation is conducted
 - SEP based on achievement and engagement (LCAP); completion of assignments/other; learning required concepts; and progress toward completion
 - Content aligned to grade level standards
 - For high schools, pupils shall have access to all courses required for graduation and meeting UC/CSU A–G admissions criteria



Board Policies (2 of 3)

- Board policies shall include:
 - Tiered reengagement strategies: not generating attendance for more than 3 school days or 60 percent of instructional days/week
 - Opportunities for synchronous instruction and live interaction for all pupils:
 - Transitional Kindergarten (TK)–3, daily synchronous instruction
 - Grades 4–8, both daily live interaction and weekly synchronous instruction
 - Grades 9–12, weekly synchronous instruction
 - Plan to transition pupil to in-person instruction within five instructional days



Board Policies (3 of 3)

- Board policies shall include:
 - Notification to parents/guardians of IS option
 - Information on LEA's website
 - Right to request a pupil-parent-educator conference before enrollment
 - Pupil's rights for enrolling, disenrolling, and reenrolling in IS
 - Synchronous/Asynchronous instruction available in IS
 - Prior to signing written agreement and upon request:
 - LEA shall meet with parent/guardian

New independent study written agreements

If you are offering IS direct through
your LEA and not doing an
Interdistrict Transfer Agreement



Traditional Independent Study: Written Agreement (1 of 3)

- Required elements of the Written Agreement
 - Plan for submitting assignments, and for reporting academic progress, and communicating progress to parent/guardian
 - Objectives and methods of study, and evaluation methods
 - Available resources, includes materials and personnel, and confirming or providing access to connectivity and devices
 - Length of time from date an assignment is made and date it must be completed, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments before conducting an evaluation



Written Agreement (2 of 3)

- Required elements
 - Duration of agreement
 - Number of course credits or other measures of academic accomplishment to be earned
 - Academic/other supports to address pupil needs (LCAP)
 - Identify IS as an optional educational alternative



Written Agreement (3 of 3)

- Required elements
 - Signed before commencement of IS
 - Allows for electronic signatures
 - For 2021–22 school year only, written agreements shall be signed no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

CHECKLIST:

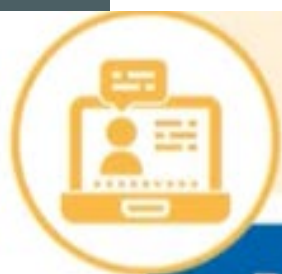
<https://www.sccoe.org/supoffice/government-relations/Pages/Independent-Study-Legislation.aspx>

New Interaction Requirements

If you are offering IS direct through your LEA and not doing an Interdistrict Transfer Agreement

- **Live interaction:** Interaction between the student and local educational agency classified or certificated staff, and may include peers, provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness, including, but not limited to, wellness checks, progress monitoring, provision of services, and instruction. This interaction may take place in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communication. *(AB 130)*

- **Synchronous instruction:** Classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communications, and involving live two-way communication between the teacher and student. Synchronous instruction shall be provided by the teacher of record for that student pursuant to *EC Section 51747.5. (AB 130)*



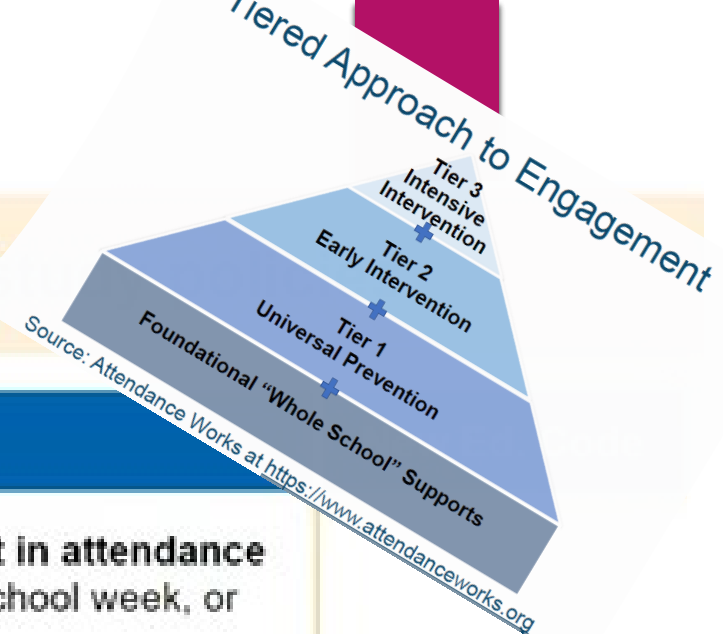
New requirements for district independent study policies

Requirement	Details	New Ed. Code
Live interaction and synchronous instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grades TK-3: Daily synchronous for all students• Grades 4-8: Both daily live & weekly synchronous• Grades 9-12: Weekly synchronous	<u>Ed. Code 51747(e)</u>
Course access provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Content must be aligned to grade level standards• Instruction must be provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction• High Schools: Must include access to all courses offered by the LEA for graduation and approved A-G courses	<u>Ed. Code 51747(c)</u>



New requirements for district independent study

Requirement	Details
Tiered re-engagement procedures	<p>Must have tiered re-engagement procedures 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 the written I.S. agreement</p> <p>Procedures must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(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



Ed. Code
51747(d)



New requirements for district independent study policies

Requirement	Details	New Ed. Code
Plan to transition students who wish to return to in-person	Must include a plan to transition pupils whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously (no later than five instructional days)	<u>Ed. Code 51747(f)</u>

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New Reporting Requirements



New requirements for documenting and reporting participation

Requirement	Details	New Ed. Code
Document each student's participation for each day of I.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must document participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction for each day of I.S. (in whole or in part)• A student who does not participate must be documented as non-participatory for that school day• LEAs are not required to sign and date student work products when assessing the time value of work products	<p><u>Ed. Code 51747.5(c)</u></p> <p><u>Ed. Code 51747.5(e)</u></p>



New requirements for documenting and reporting participation

Requirement	Details	New Ed. Code
LEA must maintain written or computer-based evidence of pupil engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must maintain written or computer-based evidence of student engagement, listing all assignments, assessments, and associated grades• Must report in CALPADS the number of students participating in I.S. for 15 or more schooldays (new field will be added starting in 2021-22)• Must report to CCEE on a biweekly basis the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ # of students who have opted into independent study○ How the LEA is meeting the daily or weekly synchronous requirement for students○ Actions the LEA is taking to encourage the transition of students participating in I.S. to in-person instruction	<p><u>Ed. Code 51747.5(d)</u></p> <p><u>Ed. Code 51749(b)</u></p> <p><u>Ed. Code 32091(a)(D)</u></p>

J-13A Request for Waiver of Instructional time and hold harmless ADA

- ▶ For 2021-22 any requests made after Sept 1 must be accompanied by the LEAs plan to offer IS should schools be closed for a period exceeding 10 days.
- ▶ The plan does not need to address synchronous instruction, tiered reengagement or provide for the expeditious return to in-person instruction. We anticipate this area of the new law will be amended as Independent Study must be voluntary and if school is closed then it is not voluntary. The Leg intent was to ensure that students do not suffer any further loss of learning in the event of a school closure.



NOVATO
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Virtual Independent Study Program

AN INNOVATIVE OPTION FOR STUDENTS TO
LEARN IN A VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

LEA Next Steps

- ☐ Establish convening a meeting with the governing body for discussion and action on whether LEA will offer an IS option locally or provide a virtual option through an interdistrict attendance agreement.
- ☐ Notify all parents and guardians of the in-person and IS educational options available to students for the 2021-2022 school year, posting all required information on its website.
- ☐ Post translations in all languages for which there are 15% or more pupils who speak a primary language other than English (as determined from the census data submitted to the CDE in 2019-20)
- ☐ Write or amend Independent Study policies to conform with new requirements
- ☐ Have Board adopt Independent Study policies
- ☐ Write or amend Independent Study Written Agreement to conform with new requirements
- ☐ Obtain signed Written Agreements within 30 days of the start of instruction.

Question & Answer



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