

San Ysidro School District  
**Virtual Learning Academy**  
**Independent Study Learning Contract**  
**2021-2022**

<b>Student Name</b>	<b>School in 2021-22</b>	<b>Grade Entering 2021-22 School Year</b>
<b>Current School in 2020-21</b>	<b>Student's Address</b>	<b>Student's Age</b>
<b>Parent/Guardian Names</b>	<b>Parent Phone #s</b>	<b>Student's Birth Date</b>
<b>Parent Emails</b>		

**2021-2022 School of Enrollment:** Virtual Learning Academy

**Duration of Agreement:** 1-3 Trimesters for Elementary; 1-2 Semesters for Middle School depending upon the success of the student with attendance, engagement, and academic proficiency. We understand the Virtual Learning Academy may only be available for 2021-2022.

We understand space is limited in the Virtual Learning Academy and all agreements must be submitted by June 8, 2021 to the SYSD Pupil Services office by email at [vlaregistrations@syzschools.org](mailto:vlaregistrations@syzschools.org) or brought to 4350 Otay Mesa Rd. San Ysidro, CA 92173.

**Important Notice:** This Independent Study contract is provided in connection with the registration process to inform parents/guardians about the nature of the Virtual Learning Academy and request a commitment to participate so appropriate planning can take place. This contract may need to be revised and re-signed by the parties if there are changes in Independent Study law prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year that affect this contract or the program.

*The Virtual Learning Academy will abide by all applicable state laws and regulations with regards to independent study and virtual learning programs; and the Virtual Learning Program will only be offered to the grade spans allowed by the California Department of Education and California Legislature (note, K-3 may or may not be eligible for this program pending state determination).*

**Objectives, Methods of Study, Methods of Evaluation, and Resources:** We understand that the student is to complete the subjects/courses listed below, and that subject/course objectives reflect the curriculum adopted by the district's governing board and are consistent with district standards, as outlined in the district's subject/course descriptions. The following subjects/courses will be provided: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education, and Elective/ELD. Student's completion of subject/course material will be evaluated by the teacher based on completion of classroom assignments and tests. Each student will be assigned a teacher and will be provided any resources needed to complete the work assigned. Upon completion of this contract, middle school students will earn credits for each of their courses, and elementary school students will advance to the next grade level, assuming the full year is completed.

**Reporting:** We understand that students are required to report to their teacher(s) as scheduled virtually on Google Classroom.

**Frequency & Time:** Participation will be daily, following the San Ysidro School District Student Calendar. Assignments will be turned in daily, or as directed by the teacher, through an online platform.

**Attendance:** We understand that chronic absenteeism affects a student's opportunity to achieve grade level academic proficiency. Therefore, we agree to ensure daily attendance at the Virtual Learning Academy. Failure to attend the Virtual Learning Academy daily without an acceptable excuse of absence may result in placement in the regular instruction model at an available school site. Excessive absences or frequent tardiness to Virtual Learning Academy lessons may result in placement in a regular in-person instructional model at an available school site.

**Assignments/Evaluation of Success in Program:** The maximum length of time that will be allowed between the assignment and the date the assignment is due is two weeks. After five (5) missed assignments, an evaluation will be made to determine whether independent study is an appropriate strategy for this student. This evaluation may result in termination of the independent study agreement and the student's return to the regular classroom program or other alternative program (AR 6158). Alternatively, this could result in an increase in the amount of time the student works under direct supervision such as in-person attendance once a week.

**Academic Proficiency:** We understand that students participating in the Virtual Learning Academy are expected to achieve academic proficiency within their grade level. In the event a student is struggling academically, the district/school may require the student to participate in any of the following: a) in-person academic intervention program/s at the school site; b) parent/student/teacher/administrator conferences; c) student study team meetings w/ parent/guardian and student; and/or d) return to full in-person learning at school during the academic school year.

**Assessments:** We understand some assessments including state assessments such as, but not limited to the SBAC and ELPAC, along with district benchmark assessments will need to be completed in-person and agree to taking these assessments in-person at the designated SYSD site

at the scheduled date and time.

**Student Behavior:** We understand that students are expected to follow school rules and behavior expectations. Failure to follow school rules may result in the district/school returning the student to full in-person instruction at school.

**Video Camera On:** Students are expected to keep their video camera turned on during daily teacher instructional lessons. If the student/family does not feel comfortable with the video camera turned on during instructional lessons, then the district recommends the student participate in full in-person instruction at school.

**Voluntary Statement:** We understand that independent study is an optional educational alternative that students voluntarily select, including students covered under California *Education Code* sections 48915 and 48917. All students who choose independent study must be offered the alternative of classroom instruction, and they must have the continuing option of returning to the classroom.

**Limitations:** We understand that there may be limited space at a student's home school and therefore a student returning from Virtual Learning Academy to in-person instruction may be placed at a SYSD school with space available at the time of entry. We understand that students may be placed with multiple grade levels such as a combination of students in grades 3 and 4 in one Virtual Classroom. It is also possible that students may be placed in a virtual classroom comprised of students from two different schools. In such a case, the student may need to submit a transfer request to be enrolled in that particular school's class roster only for the duration of the virtual learning. The term is one semester for middle school or one trimester at a time for elementary. The district has the discretion to place the student in a partial or full in-person learning program if the student is struggling with attendance, or academic proficiency.

**Initial Approval or Denial of Contract:** The school principal or district administrator will approve or deny the contract based on the student's progress and performance this 2020-2021 school year in academic proficiency, engagement, and attendance. In the event the contract is denied, parent/guardian will have an opportunity to request a parent conference with the school principal/district administrator to appeal the decision based on unique family or student circumstances.

**Quality and Quantity; Rights and Privileges; Resources and Services:** The independent study option is to be substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to classroom instruction. Students who choose to engage in independent study are to have equality of rights and privileges with the same access to existing services and resources as students in the regular school program. Students with Individualized Education Programs ("IEP") and Section 504 plans are welcome to apply to the SYSD Virtual Learning Academy. Admission decisions will be made based on the ability of the services and supports provided by SYSD's Virtual Learning Academy to meet the individual's unique educational needs. If the student has an IEP or Section 504 plan, please indicate as such in the box below and a member of the Special Education Department will be in

touch with you to discuss the programming options available for the student.

\_\_\_ My child has an IEP.

\_\_\_ My child has a Section 504 plan.

\_\_\_ Not applicable.

**Signatures and Dates:** We have viewed the Virtual Learning Academy Orientation, read and understand the terms of this agreement, and agree to all the provisions. **If denied due to this past year’s academic proficiency, lack of engagement, or attendance, parents will have the opportunity to appeal with a conference date.**

REQUIRED SIGNATURES		
Title	Signature	Date
Student		
Parent/Guardian		
Supervising Teacher or Teacher Representative		

AUTHORIZATION OR DENIAL OF CONTRACT		
Principal/District Administrator Signature:	___ APPROVED  ___ DENIED	DATE: