

Independent Study as an Enrollment Option

For the 2021-2022 school year, parents/guardians have the option of enrolling their child in either in-person instruction or Independent Study. The District's full time Independent Study program available to students is called **Virtual Learning Academy** and consists of daily virtual instruction by a teacher (approximately 300 minutes per day) and completion of assignments submitted via Google Classroom or other online platforms.

The District also has a **Short-Term Independent Study** program (less than 15 school days per school year) that is appropriate for students who are required to quarantine at home due to COVID-19 exposure. This short-term independent study program also requires completion and submission of work assignments, but does not include virtual instruction.

The following rights and limitations relate to Independent Study:

- Parents/guardians are entitled to request a pupil-parent-educator conference meeting before enrolling their child in Independent Study.
- All Independent Study programs require execution of an Agreement that specifies the expectations and requirements of the program.
- Independent Study is an educational option and voluntary, and students may not be required to participate.
- Attendance credit for Independent Study is based on the time-value of work completed and submitted.
- Once a student is enrolled in Independent Study, the student's parent/guardian may request that the student return to regular in-person instruction, in which case the District will transition the student back to in-person instruction expeditiously, but no later than within five (5) school days. Parents may request reenrollment to the program by contacting the program's Principal.
- By law, students with individualized education programs (IEPs) may not participate in independent study unless their IEPs specifically provide for that participation.
- If a student misses three assignments or is not making satisfactory progress in the Independent Study program, the District may convene a meeting to discuss the student's possible return to in-person instruction.

The Virtual Learning Academy is part of The Pupil Services Department, and those contracts are issued from that office.

The short-term independent contracts and student work are initiated from the student's school.

More information regarding the District's Independent Study programs is described in Board Policy and Regulation 6158

BP 6158 - Independent

Study: <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030895&revid=1mY7DUjsLMBY0KzhU0Ro4A==&ptid=amlqTZiB9plushNjl6WXhfiOQ==&secid=ruE8yj8gaZHBkLjNHWmKZw==&PG=6&IRP=0>

AR 6158 - Independent

Study: <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030895&revid=1B5gJJUji5YNJiw90jut4g==&ptid=amlqTZiB9plushNjl6WXhfiOQ==&PG=6>