



July 30, 2021

PARENT NOTIFICATION LETTER: Independent Study

Dear Jefferson School District Community,

The Jefferson School District believes that the best form of instruction for students is in-person. To this end, the District is planning for a full reopening of our schools. For the 2021-2022 school year, the State of California is requiring all school districts to offer an Independent Study option to students and families. Independent Study is being made available to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian. This program is significantly different than distance learning offered last year and the vast majority of the instructional minutes will be completed independently. Due to a statewide shortage of teachers the number of synchronous instructional minutes will be very limited.

State and federal laws require us to inform you of your option to enroll your student in an Independent Study program instead of in-person instruction. From these options, you may choose the one that best suits your child. This letter also explains:

- Your right to request a pupil-parent-educator conference prior to enrollment to inform your decision.
- The process and your students' rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and re-enrolling in independent study.
- The asynchronous and synchronous instructional time that your student will have access to as part of Independent Study.

Requesting a Pupil-Parent-Educator Conference

It is your right to request a pupil-parent-educator conference prior to enrolling your student in Independent Study in order to inform your decision and ensure that it is appropriate for your student. In the pre-enrollment process for independent study you will be asked to select if you would like to schedule a conference before enrolling your student in the Independent Study program.

Enrolling, Disenrolling & Re-Enrolling

Once you have determined that you would like to pursue Independent Study, you can begin the enrollment process by requesting an enrollment packet from notifications@jsdtracy.com.

If you are enrolled in Independent Study and would like to return to in-person instruction, you must contact the school office and let them know. Once disenrolled, should you need to return to Independent Study, you are required to adhere to the re-enrollment process by contacting your student’s school office.

Instructional Time

The goal of our Independent Study program is to provide an alternative to in-person instruction to students whose health may be put at risk by attending class face-to-face. As such, Independent Study is an educational program that provides instruction based on the state-adopted content standards by certificated teachers. There are specific requirements for instructional time that may include both synchronous and asynchronous work. These expectations will also be outlined in the students’ written Learning Agreement, which must be signed prior to enrollment.

A student with disabilities, as defined in Education Code 56026, shall not participate in course-based Independent Study, unless the student’s individualized education program specifically provides for that participation.

| Instructional Time | Description | TK-3 | 4-8 th Grade |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Synchronous Instructional Time | 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(s) of record for that student. | At least, 30 minutes daily | At least, 60 minutes weekly |
| Live Interaction | Interaction between the student and school 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. | None | At least, 10 minutes daily |

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|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Asynchronous Instructional Time | Forms of instruction that do not occur in the same place or at the same time. The term is most commonly applied to various forms of print, digital and online learning that the students complete independently. | 250 minutes daily | 300 minutes 4 days per week and 240 minutes 1 day per week |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|

Students participating in Independent Study will be held to strict standards to ensure that they are making adequate progress toward essential standards. In the event a student does not participate in live instruction or complete the weekly independent work, the school site will begin tiered reengagement strategies with the family to ensure satisfactory educational progress. If these strategies do not bring about the required educational progress, a decision will be made to return the student to in-person instruction.

Parents or guardians may select an instructional program that best suits their child’s needs. If you have any questions beyond the details listed above, please visit jeffersonschooldistrict.com for more information or email notifications@jsdtracy.com to ask about the process.

Sincerely,
James W. Bridges
Superintendent