

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY

Series 6000

Instruction

BP 6158(a)

Home Independent Study

The Oak Park Unified School District Board of Education authorizes the superintendent to establish a Home Independent Study as an optional alternative instructional strategy by which students in K-12 school in the district, or in neighboring school districts, may reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements in a setting other than the regular classroom. For the purposes of this policy, the terms student and pupil are synonymous.

Home Independent Study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational learning plan for students whose needs may be met best through study outside of the regular classroom setting.

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

General Conditions

1. Home Independent Study is a continuously voluntary, educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate.
2. Instruction may be provided only if the student is offered a classroom option that is always available.
3. No course required for graduation shall be offered exclusively through Home Independent Study.
4. No individual with exceptional needs as defined in Education Code 56026 may participate in Home Independent Study unless his/her individualized education program (IEP) specifically provides for that participation.
5. The District shall provide and ensure Home Independent Study students the same access to existing services and resources as are available to all other students in the school in which the Home Independent Study students are enrolled.
6. In grades K-5, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student should recognize that Home Independent Study emphasizes a commitment on the part of the parent(s) or guardian(s) in supervision and instruction.
7. In grades 6-12, the student must make the major commitment and must be assisted or supported as necessary by others who may help directly with instruction.
8. In grades 9-12, there must be an understanding that due to the nature of certain subject matter or special facilities required for a class, the student may need to take these courses through one of the following options: comprehensive high school, on-line, remote (distance) learning, community college, or four year college or university.
9. Students who engage in independent study have the same rights and privileges as students who choose to continue in the classroom (5 CCR 11701.5)

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY

Series 6000

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BP 6158(b)

Implementation

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall determine that the prospective Home Independent Study student, and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), understand the District's requirements for Home Independent Study and are prepared to meet them.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall guarantee that each participating student has an executed written Home Independent Study agreement as prescribed by law (Education Code 51747). Home Independent Study program participation requires a written agreement with all the required elements, agreed to by the student, parent/guardian/caregiver, certificated employee, and all other persons who give direct assistance to the student. Individual Home Independent Study agreements, including any subsidiary contract, must be consistent with the District's adopted course of study. The agreement, and any subsidiary contract, must be kept on file in the Home Independent Study classroom or office and a copy maintained in the student's file at their home school.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

The Board recognizes that independent study may be used as an option to encourage students to remain in school. Teachers should carefully set the duration of independent study assignments, within the limits specified by the Board in order to help identify students falling behind in their work or in danger of failing or dropping out of school.

To foster each student's success in independent study, the Board establishes the following maximum lengths of time which may elapse between the time an assignment is made and date by which the student must complete the assigned work shall be as follows:

1. For students in grades K-8: 2 weeks
2. For students in grades 9-12: 4 weeks and continuation

Assignments may be of shorter duration, based on student need. When circumstances justify a longer time, the teacher may extend the maximum length of an assignment to a period not to exceed eight weeks, pursuant to a written request with justification.

When any student fails to complete two (2) independent study assignments in the agreement period, the teacher and the Home Independent Study Administrator shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in Home

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Series 6000

Instruction

BP 6158(c)

Independent Study. Evaluation findings shall be kept in the student's permanent record.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish administrative regulations to implement Home Independent Study in accordance with the law.

Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board the number of students engaged in Home Independent Study by grade level, the ADA generated, the quality of these students' work as measured by standard indicators, and the number and proportion of independent study students who graduate or successfully complete independent study. A list of students by grade level shall be maintained showing credits attempted, credits earned and a record of attendance.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17289 Exemption for building
44865 Qualifications for home teachers and teachers in special classes and schools; consent to assignment
46300-46300.6 Methods of computing ADA
46300.7 Permission of parents or guardians of independent student programs pupils: requirements
48204(f) An elementary pupil attending school based on parents/guardian's employment
48225.5(e) Excused absences with students working in entertainment or allied industries
48220 Classes of children exempted
48340 Improvement of pupil attendance
48663 Minimum school day; attendance credit; calculation of additional funding
48915 Expulsion; particular circumstances
48916.1 Education program requirements for expelled students
48917 Suspension of expulsion order
51225.3 Requirements for high school graduation
51225.3 (b) Mandated alternative
51745-51749.3 Independent study programs
52000 Improvement of elementary and secondary education: legislative intent
52015 School improvement plans: components of plan
52017 Secondary schools: additional plan components
52123 Funding for class size reduction and the restriction for independent study
52206 GATE Program approaches; minimum time; academic component
52522 Alternative (adult) instructional delivery; approval; expenditures; regulations
52523 Adult education as supplement for high school curriculum; criteria
56026 Individual with exceptional needs

FAMILY CODE

6550 Authorization affidavits

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11700-11703 Independent study

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Management Resources:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

1113.09 Independent Study: New Legislation, SPB: 90/91-04

0904.86 Independent Study, SPB: 86/7-5

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Independent Study Operations Manual, 1993 revised edition, updated 1994, 1996

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Adopted: 8-14-01

Amended: 9-17-02, 9-19-06, 4-20-10