



Lakeside Union School District
TY BRYSON, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



"BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE"

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Friday, July 30, 2021

Independent Study Option
2021-2022 School Year

Earlier this month, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 130, enacting various programmatic and budgetary changes for the 2021-22 fiscal year. Assembly Bill 130 dramatically changed the requirements and qualifications for independent studies in grades TK-12.

In addition to our traditional Independent Study Program for students with short term absences of less than 15 days, a separate, long term Independent Study option will be offered. For the 2021-2022 school year only, the Lakeside Union School District will offer Independent Study to include those students whose parents/guardians determine that their student's health is put at risk by attending in-person instruction. If a student has an IEP or 504 Plan, enrollment in this program must be decided upon in an IEP or 504 Team meeting before any change of program placement can occur.

Independent study can be a suitable option for the few students who are not able to take advantage of the return to in-person instruction planned for the fall. During the last school year, many of our students struggled with distance learning, and being without the advantages of in-person instruction at our school sites caused them great difficulty. Most students are better served in an educational setting that is classroom-based and offers a traditional learning environment. Independent study requires self-motivation and a strong commitment on the part of the student and, especially for young students, a huge commitment on the part of the parent/guardian.

Please know this new independent study will not be the same as the distance learning from the last school year. For the most part, a student on independent study will learn independently, without teacher instruction. There will be significantly less live interaction and synchronous learning. Furthermore, related services provided for in your student's IEP will no longer be provided as they were through distance learning. IEP services will, for the most part, be provided on campus only, whether or not your student is enrolled in independent study. Again, if your child has an IEP or 504 Plan, they may only participate in independent studies if their IEP or 504 plan provides for it.

Independent Study Program Details:

- Parent /guardian conference with school administration prior to enrollment
- Independent Study written agreement will be reviewed at a conference via phone, online or in person
- Written Agreement will include the following:
 - The manner, time, frequency, and place for communicating with a pupil's parent or guardian regarding academic progress
 - The inclusion of confirming or providing access to all pupils to the connectivity devices necessary for participation and completion of work with the specific resources made available to the pupil
 - The level of satisfactory educational progress that would trigger an evaluation of whether or not the pupil will continue to participate in an independent study program or must return to in-person instruction
 - A detailed statement of academic and other supports provided to address the needs of pupils not performing at grade level or needed support in other areas such as English learners, pupils in foster care, pupils experiencing homelessness, and pupils requiring mental health supports
 - A provision for the use of electronic signatures for written agreements
- Students in grades TK-3 will have daily online instruction for a minimum of 30 minutes
- Students enrolled in this program must make satisfactory progress, engage in live, online instructional sessions and complete assignments independently
- District adopted curriculum will be utilized for both Independent Study and In-Person instruction
- Students in grades 4-8 will have weekly online instruction for a minimum of 30 minutes and daily check-ins on the phone, Zoom, or in-person if needed
- Daily participation in the required activities will be documented
- Work is completed independently, at home, on a grade level appropriate, virtual learning platform, such as Google Classroom or Canvas.

If you feel a return to traditional, in-person instruction will put your student's health at risk and would like to discuss an alternative placement in the long term Independent Study Program, please contact your child's school office.

Lakeside School (661) 831-3503

Suburu School (661) 665-8190