

Curriculum and Instruction

INDEPENDENT STUDY BOARD POLICIES

These policies apply to all students participating in independent study at Mare Island Technology Academy, MIT Academy, MIT Griffin Academy Middle School, and Griffin Academy High School (the “Schools”).

Each student’s independent study shall be coordinated, evaluated, and carried out under the general supervision of an assigned certificated employee or employees.

For students in all programs of independent study, the maximum length of time that may elapse between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assigned work shall be as follows:

- For students in grades six through eight, 20 days
- For students in grades nine through twelve, 30 days.

When special or extenuating circumstances justify a longer time for individual students, the director or their designee may approve a period not to exceed an additional 30 days.

Missed Assignments and Level of Satisfactory Progress: When a student fails to complete $\geq 30\%$ assignments during any period of 9 weeks or fails to make satisfactory progress (as defined below) the school will conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the best interests of the student to remain in independent study or to return to the regular school program. A written record of the findings of any evaluation made pursuant to this subdivision shall be maintained in the student’s permanent record and treated as a mandatory interim student record. The record shall be maintained for a period of three years from the date of the evaluation and, if the student transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

Satisfactory educational progress shall be based on all of the following indicators, as applicable:

- Student achievement and engagement, as measured by all of the following, as applicable:
 - Statewide assessments that are part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (a.k.a., “CAASPP”, or any other subsequent assessment as certified by the state board of education),
 - The percentage of students who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for entrance to the University of California and California State University,
 - The percentage of students who have successfully completed courses that satisfy the requirements for career technical education sequences or programs that align with state board-approved career technical education standards and frameworks,

- The percentage of students who have successfully completed both the university entrance and career technical courses specified above,
 - The percentage of English learner students who make progress toward English proficiency as measured by the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (“ELPAC” or subsequent assessments of English proficiency certified by the state board),
 - The English learner reclassification rate,
 - The percentage of students who have passed an advanced placement exam with a score of “3” or higher, and
 - The percentage of students who demonstrate college preparedness pursuant to the Early Assessment Program (or any subsequent assessment of college preparedness).
- Student engagement, as measured by all of the following, as applicable:
- School attendance rates,
 - Chronic absenteeism rates,
 - Middle school dropout rates,
 - High school dropout rates, and
 - High school graduation rates.
- The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments.
- Learning requirement concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher.
- Progressing toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher,

Academic Content: Independent study shall include the provision of content aligned to grade level standards that is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction.

Independent study shall include access to all courses offered by the Schools for graduation and approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the A-G admission criteria.

Tiered Reengagement: For all students who are not generating attendance for more than three schooldays or 60 percent of the instructional days in a school week, or who are in violation of

their written agreement, the school shall have procedures including the following reengagement strategies:

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- Verifying current contact information for the student,
- Notifying parents or guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation,
- A plan for outreach from the school to determine student needs, including a connection with health and social services, as necessary,
- A clear standard requiring a student-parent-educator conference, as defined below, to review the student's written agreement, reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well-being, consistent with the school's policies regarding the maximum amount of time allowed between the assignment and completion of student's assigned work, satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether the student should be allowed to continue in independent study,

For the purposes of this policy, "student-parent-educator conference" means a meeting involving, at a minimum, all parties who signed the student's written independent study agreement.

Opportunities for Live Interaction and Synchronous Instruction: The Schools shall plan to provide opportunities for live interaction and synchronous instruction as follows for all students engaged in independent study:

- For students in grades 6 to 8 inclusive, the Schools shall plan to provide opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the year,
- For students in grades 9-12 inclusive, the Schools shall plan to provide opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the year,

For the purposes of this policy, "live interaction" means interaction between the student and certificated or non-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 live interaction may take place in-person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communication.

For the purposes of this policy, "synchronous instruction" means 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

Return to In-Person Instruction: For students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study, the Schools shall allow the student to return expeditiously, and in no case later than five instructional days,

Written Agreements: (5 C.C.R. § 11702) A current written agreement for each independent study student shall be maintained on file for each participating student. Each agreement shall be signed, dated, and in effect prior to the start of reporting attendance (ADA) pursuant to that

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agreement. The independent study agreement for a student will require and cover a study plan that represents the same amount of study that would be required of a student in the classroom and be consistent with the Schools' curriculum and course of study of students participating in the regular classroom setting.

Agreement Content: Each independent study written agreement shall contain at least all of the following provisions:

- The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a student's assignments, for reporting the student's academic progress, and for communicating with a student's parent or guardian regarding academic progress.
- The objectives and methods of study for the student's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
- The specific resources, including materials and personnel that will be made available to the student. These resources shall include confirming or providing access for all students to the connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the academic program and complete assigned work.
- A statement of the policies adopted regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a student's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed prior to an evaluation of whether or not the student should be allowed to continue in independent study. The level of satisfactory educational progress and missed assignments shall conform to the requirements specified above in this policy.
- The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for participating in independent study, recognizing that no independent study agreement shall be valid for any period longer than one school year.
- A statement of the number and title of courses or other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the student upon completion.
- A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas such as English learners, individuals with exceptional needs as required to be consistent with the student's individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794), students in foster care, students experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports.
- The inclusion of a statement in each independent study agreement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate.

Written agreements shall be signed, prior to the commencement of independent study, by the student, the student's parent/guardian/caregiver if the student is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee designated as responsible for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the student. Written agreements may be maintained electronically along with and may include subsidiary agreements, such as course contracts and assignment and work records. Written agreements may be signed

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using electronic signatures that comply with applicable state and federal standards and are intended by the signatory to have the same effect as a handwritten signature.

Before signing a written agreement pursuant to this section, and upon the request of the parent or guardian of a student, the appropriate School shall conduct a phone, videoconference, or in person student-parent-educator conference or other school meeting during which the student, parent or guardian, and, if requested by the student or parent, an education advocate, may ask questions about the educational options, including which curriculum offerings and nonacademic supports will be available to the student in independent study, before making the decision about enrollment or disenrollment in the various options for learning.

For the 2021-22 school year only, written agreements may be completed and signed as provided above no later than 30 days after the first day a student commences independent study.

Adopted: 8/10/2021

Amended:

