Subject: Independent Study for Seat Based Programs

Effective Date: TBD Upon Board Approval

Approved By: Board of Directors

Policy: 5006.2

The Governing Board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan and enabling students to reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements. As necessary to meet student needs, independent study may be offered on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis.

The minimum period of time for any independent study option shall be five school days.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written independent study agreement, as prescribed by law, exists for each participating student. (Education Code 51747)
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 as follows:

1. For students in grades K-3: 1 week
2. For students in grades 4-8: 2 weeks
3. For students in grades 9-12: 3 weeks for continuation and adult education

When circumstances justify a longer time, the Superintendent or designee may extend the maximum length of an assignment to a period not to exceed eight weeks, pursuant to a written request with justification. Supervising teachers should carefully set the duration of independent study assignments, within the limits specified above, and establish an appropriate schedule for student-teacher conferences in order to help identify students falling behind in their work or in danger of failing or dropping out of school. Except in unusual circumstances, it is expected that the supervising teacher will meet or communicate with each participating student at least once a week to discuss the student's progress.