MPESD
Independent Study (IS)
Parent Overview

Laurie Ann Breton,
Director Student Support Services 2022-23
What is Independent Study

Long –Term
Independent Study (15 or more days, maximum one school year)

or

Short –Term
Independent Study (3-15 days)

An alternative to classroom instruction
Not an alternative curriculum

Available to students K-12
Staffing ratios for I.S. are defined by Ed. Code

Voluntary enrollment
LEAs cannot require students to enroll in independent study

Special Needs Students* can participate in independent study
If the IEP team agrees FAPE can be provided for the students through IS

*As defined by Ed. Code 56026

Ed. Code 51745.6
Ed. Code 51747(c)(7)
Ed. Code 51745(c)(3)
2022 and forward

Independent Study (IS) provisions is not Distance Learning but a combination of synchronous online learning and independent work.

- Additional requirements for students enrolled in I.S. for 15 days or longer
- Must meet requirements in IS Contract
- Can request meeting before enrolling
Short-Term Independent Study

- Students whose parents believe the student's health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent/guardian of the student.
- TK through 8th Grade.
- Special Needs Students only through IEP process.
- Parents who want an alternative attendance option.

Short-Term Independent study:

- Less than 15 school days.
- Alternative to a lengthy absence such as a family member ill, vacation, family emergency, etc.
- Maintain classroom placement at school.
- IS Contract signed within 10 of IS request beginning, minimum of three days.
Long-Term Independent Study

Long-Term Independent study can be offered to:

- Students whose parents believe the student’s health would be put at risk by in-person instruction As determined by the parent/guardian of the student,
- TK through 8th Grade,
- Special Needs Students only through IEP process
- Parents who want an alternative attendance option to in-person instruction
Independent Study: Requirements

Requirements for long-term independent study:

Signed Contract

- Live interaction and synchronous instruction requirements based on grade level
- Tiered re-engagement procedures for students enrolled but not successful/participating
- Plan to transition students in independent study who wish to return to in-person (no later than 5 school days)
Procedures

Requirements - documenting and reporting participation

• Independent Study Contract - signed by parent, student and teacher before enrollment in IS
• Student’s participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction for each day of I.S. must be documented
• School must maintain written or computer-based evidence of pupil engagement (assignments, tests, work completed)
• Student can be required to return to in-person if not attending or participating
**Live interaction and synchronous instruction**

- **Grades TK-3:** Daily synchronous for all students
- **Grades 4-8:** Both daily live & weekly synchronous

**Course access provisions**

- Content must be aligned to grade level standards
- Instruction must be provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction
- MPESD will offer traditional Independent study- one teacher for all subjects
- Can include alternative work or travel study
“Live interaction” means interaction between the pupil and local educational agency 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.

“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 and pupil. Synchronous instruction shall be provided by the teacher of record for that pupil.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades TK - 3</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synchronous Learning</td>
<td>With Teacher of Record/Assign Weekly Assignments/Review Content</td>
<td>With Teacher of Record Review Content</td>
<td>With Teacher of Record Review Content</td>
<td>With Teacher of Record Review Content</td>
<td>With Teacher of Record Review Content</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asynchronous Learning</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Systems to Provide Support</td>
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</table>
### Sample IS Schedule 4th-8th Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 4 - 8</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Live Interaction</td>
<td>Attendance **SEL Activity **Wellness Check</td>
<td>Attendance **SEL Activity **Wellness Check</td>
<td>Attendance **SEL Activity **Wellness Check</td>
<td>Attendance **SEL Activity **Wellness Check</td>
<td>Attendance **SEL Activity **Wellness Check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synchronous Learning</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Synchronous</td>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous Learning</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver monitoring</td>
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</table>

*51747(e) Daily Live Interaction and Weekly Synchronous Instruction
**Suggested Daily Live Interaction
# Documenting and Reporting Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student’s participation for each day of independent study must be documented</td>
<td>- Must <strong>document participation</strong> in live interaction and synchronous instruction for each day of independent study (in whole or in part)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- A student who does not participate <strong>must be documented as non-participatory</strong> for that school day (virtually absent)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Work samples must be collected electronically</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Can student enroll in IS?

- Unfortunately, we are not able to enroll students enrolled in the Ida Jew ALAS Dual Immersion program: Students must be immersed in the language to become bilingual and biliterate. Dual Immersion can not be taught successfully under the independent study model. Therefore independent study will not be offered for students enrolled in dual immersion.

- Students with Disabilities must hold an IEP to review if appropriate, before enrolling.

- District is not required to enroll students who previously enrolled in IS but did not meet the IS Contract requirements for participation or attendance.

- Enrollment will be based on interest and space available in the IS program.
What if student has Special Needs (IEP) Long term

- Decision for independent study must be made with the student’s IEP Team
- Parent should request an IEP Meeting to discuss independent study (meeting to be held within 30 days)
- IEP Team must meet to determine if student’s needs can be met through independent study and if so what accommodations are needed, i.e., can student receive educational benefit and progress on IEP goals under independent study
- Services discussed with IEP Team
How does a student get credit/attendance?

- Student must submit all work assignments, and
- Participate daily in live and/or synchronous instruction requirements by grade level
- Receive satisfactory grades on assignments
- Be progressing in the grade level curriculum
- Grades and report cards will be the same as if in-person
Next Steps…

1. Parent, student and teacher must sign the Independent Study Agreement agreeing to all conditions before independent study can begin.

   Link- Independent Study Agreement

2. Student receives all books, technology, and materials needed to participate in independent study.

3. Teacher schedules daily/weekly, live and/or synchronous times to meet with student based on grade level.

4. Student attends virtually for scheduled time and submits assignments for attendance and credit.

   ● Parent or student can request to meet with the teacher.
What if Independent Study Contract is not met, i.e., student is not participating, attending, or not receiving satisfactory grades?

If ........

- a student does not participate regularly
- Receives poor grades/ not progressing in curriculum
- Does not submit assignments =

Then....

- Teacher must contact parent about non-participation within one day
- A Parent-Teacher conference is required to determine if student needs to return to in-person instruction
- Re-engagement strategies must be used, parent meeting If student not participating/ meeting requirements,
- Student can be required to return to in-person instruction
- Will be placed in classroom based on space available in school or district
What if I Change My Mind about IS Enrollment?

Can a student who starts independent study return to in-person?
- Yes, inform teacher and school office and student will be placed in-person based on space available, no guarantee of home school within five school days.

Can a student who starts in-person change to independent study?
- Yes, a student can move from in-person to independent study later in the year, based on space. Independent study is an alternative option. However moving between programs multiple times would not be recommended.
To enroll in Independent Study for the 2021-22 school year:

- Complete information requested on Google Form Link-Independent Study Enrollment Request

- Student Name, Grade, School, Parent Name, email, and phone number where text can be received

- Using your contact information, you will be emailed/texted the Independent Study Contract to complete and sign electronically

- You will be notified by email before school starts of the teacher, initial schedule and how to receive technology and materials before school starts.

- In September you will be sent an additional independent study contract to sign regarding assignments and grading
Additional Questions?

Contact
Laurie A. Breton, Director
Student Support Services at lbreton@mpesd.org