New Independent Study (IS) provisions replace Distance Learning Education Code, which sunsetted (ended) on June 30, 2021

- Some carryover from existing I.S. law
- Distance learning and reduced school hours no longer an option under the law
- Additional requirements for students enrolled in I.S. for 15 days or longer
**AB130 – New Independent Study Law is for 2021-22 only**

- Long –Term Independent Study (15 or more days)
- 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*
 cannot participate in independent study
Unless the IEP specifically allows for such participation

*As defined by Ed. Code 56026
Who Can Participate in Independent Study? (AB130)

Long-Term Independent study can be offered to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction

- Students whose 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
Independent Study: New Requirements

New requirements for long-term independent study

- 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 days)
Procedures

New Requirements - documenting and reporting participation

• Independent Study Contract- signed by parent, student and teacher
• 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)
### Requirements for District Independent Study longer than 15 days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Live interaction and synchronous instruction</strong></td>
<td>- Grades TK-3: Daily synchronous for all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Grades 4-8: Both daily live &amp; weekly synchronous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Grades 9-12: Weekly synchronous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course access provisions</strong></td>
<td>- Content must be aligned to grade level standards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Instruction must be provided at a level of quality and intellectual</td>
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<td></td>
<td>challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- MPESD will offer traditional Independent study - one teacher for all</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>subjects</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
"**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.
# Independent Study Schedule TK-3rd Grade

## Minimum Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades TK - 3</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous Learning</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver</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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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sample Independent Study 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Live Interaction</td>
<td>Attendance <strong>SEL Activity</strong> <strong>Wellness Check</strong></td>
<td>Attendance <strong>SEL Activity</strong> <strong>Wellness Check</strong></td>
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</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>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver monitoring</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver monitoring</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver monitoring</td>
<td>4 – 6 hours per day with caregiver monitoring</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
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</thead>
</table>
| Student’s participation for each day of independent study must be documented | - Must **document participation** in live interaction and synchronous instruction for each day of independent study (in whole or in part)<br>- A student who does not participate **must be documented as non-participatory** for that school day (virtually absent)<br>- Work samples must be collected electronically<br>  
  * Applies to all Independent study over 15 days, no exceptions |
What if the student is attending Ida Jew Academy Charter School?

Ida Jew has two academies, Dual Immersion and STEAM.

**Dual Immersion:**
- 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.

**STEAM:**
- Students enrolled in the IJA STEAM program may request independent study by completing the independent study program enrollment form. Requests will be reviewed by Charter School.

AB 130 Charter Schools are not required to offer long-term independent study.
What if student has Special Needs (IEP)

- Decision for independent study must be made with 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
- No assurance that a Special Education teacher will be assigned to teach independent study
- Services discussed with IEP Team
- More information to come
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 curriculum
- Grades and report cards will be the same as if in-person
What does independent study look like?

- Parent & student must sign Independent Study Agreement agreeing to all conditions before independent study can start. [Link: Independent Study Agreement]
- Student receives all books, technology, materials needed to participate in independent study
- Teacher schedules daily/weekly, live and/or synchronous times to meet with student based on grade level. Parent, Student and Teacher sign Independent Study Contract with assignments and grading (within 30 days). *Amount of time for live and synchronous instruction still to be determined, estimated minimum 15 minutes live, 30 minutes synchronous daily. (will be determined by teacher and enrollment)*
- Parent, Student and Teacher sign Independent Study Contract with assignments and grading (within 30 days)
- Student attends virtually for scheduled time and submits assignments for attendance and credit
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 or attend for three consecutive days (60%) of a week
- Receives poor grades/ not progressing in curriculum
- Does not submit assignments = 

Then…. 

- 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?

Can a student who starts independent study return to in-person?
- Yes, must be placed in-person within 5 school days, based on space available, no guarantee of home school

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.
What do I do if I have decided to enroll in long-term independent study?

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 by
- 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