



Santa Barbara County Education Office

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Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent of Schools

Date: August 2, 2021

To: Parents/Guardians

From: Rene Wheeler,
Director, Juvenile Court & Community Schools

RE: Independent Study Program for School Year 2021-22

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

For the 2021-2022 school year, we are required to offer an independent study option to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian.

State and federal laws require us to inform you of your option to enroll your student in an independent study program instead of in-person instruction. If you are considering independent study, please let us know by **August 31, 2021**. If your child is enrolled in Dos Puertas, Peter B. FitzGerald, or Los Robles school after August 31, 2021, please let us know during enrollment.

This letter explains:

- Your right to request a student-parent-educator conference prior to enrollment to inform your decision.
- The process and your students' rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and re-enrolling in independent study.
- The asynchronous and synchronous instructional time that your student will have access to as part of independent study.

Student-Parent-Educator Conference

It is your right to request a student-parent-educator conference prior to enrolling your student in independent study to inform your decision and ensure that it is appropriate for your student. The conference may be conducted by telephone, videoconference, or in-person.

Enrolling, Disenrolling & Re-Enrolling in Independent Study

Once you have determined that you would like to pursue independent study, you can begin the enrollment process. To enroll in independent study for the 2021-2022 school year, there must be

a written learning agreement in place for each student. The agreement must be signed by the student's parent, legal guardian, or caregiver.

For students with exceptional needs, the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) must specifically provide for independent study before the student can begin participating. An IEP team meeting will need to be held to further discuss your student's participation in an independent study program. Please contact your child's teacher to request an IEP meeting.

Dos Puertas/Los Robles School: 805-938-1560 Amanda Daniels
Peter B. FitzGerald Community School: 805-928-0698 Patricia Hocking-Walker; High School
Rosetta Shillinger; Jr. High

If you wish to have your student return to in-person instruction during the school year, you must provide notice to the contact listed below, and your student will be returned to in-person instruction no later than five instructional days after the notice is received.

Once disenrolled, should your student wish to return to the independent study program, you will need to re-enroll your student in the independent study program. A student-parent-educator conference may be scheduled to review the program requirements to ensure that the program is still an appropriate learning option for your student.

Instructional Time

The goal of our independent study program is to provide an alternative to in-person instruction for students whose health may be put at risk by attending class face-to-face. As such, independent study is an educational program that provides instruction based on the state-adopted content standards by certificated educators.

There are specific requirements for instructional time that may include both synchronous and asynchronous work. These expectations will also be outlined in the students' written learning agreement, which must be signed prior to enrollment.

- For grades 4 through 8, there will be a plan to provide opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction.
- For grades 9 through 12, there will be a plan to provide opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction.

Live interaction means interaction between the pupil and the teacher, aide or other personnel and may include peers; this interaction may be in person, by internet or phone.

Synchronous instruction means classroom-style instruction, or small group, or one-on-one instruction delivered in person or by internet or phone and involving two-way communication between the pupil and teacher.

Questions & Enrollment

Parents or guardians may select an instructional program that best suits their student's needs. If you have any questions, wish to request a student-parent-educator conference, or to begin the enrollment process, please contact *Rene Wheeler* at: 805-967-5307 or email rwheeler@sbceo.org.