

SHORT-TERM INDEPENDENT STUDY BOARD POLICIES

The Urban Charter Schools Collective (UCSC) Board of Directors (Board) authorizes Independent Study as an optional alternative instructional approach for eligible students, whose needs may be best met through study outside of the site-based classroom setting. Independent Study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan to serve students whose health or other personal circumstances make classroom attendance difficult and will be decided on case-by-case basis.

As necessary to meet student needs, Urban Charter Schools Collective shall offer short-term, independent study to pupils enrolled in the School consistent with applicable law and this policy. This policy applies to students at Yav Pem Suab Academy (School), who require short-term independent study.

Independent study is an optional alternative educational program designed to teach the knowledge and skills of the core curriculum. Urban Charter Schools Collectives shall provide appropriate existing services and resources to enable pupils to complete their independent study successfully.

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

The following written policies have been adopted by the Board for implementation at Yav Pem Suab Academy in alignment with Education Code Section 51747:

1. For students in all grade levels at the School no more than 16 school days may elapse between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete the assigned work.
2. The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the best interests of the pupil to remain in independent study upon the following triggers:
 - a. When any pupil fails to complete 8 assignments during any period of 16 school days.
 - b. In the event Student's educational progress falls below satisfactory levels as determined by the School's multi-tiered systems of support ("MTSS") procedure which considers ALL of the following indicators:
 - i. The pupil's achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the pupil's performance on applicable pupil-level

measures of pupil achievement and pupil engagement set forth in Education Code Section 52060(d) paragraphs (4) and (5).

- ii. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the pupil is working on assignments.
- iii. Learning required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher.
- iv. Progressing toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

A written record of the findings of any evaluation conducted pursuant to this policy shall be treated as a mandatory interim pupil record. This record shall be maintained for a period of three years from the date of the evaluation and if the pupil transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

3. The School shall provide content aligned to grade level standards that is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction.
4. The School has adopted tiered reengagement strategies for all pupils who are not generating attendance for more than three (3) school days or 60% of the instructional days in a school week, or who are in violation of the written agreement pursuant to Education Code Section 51747(g). These procedures are as follow:
 - a. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled pupil;
 - b. Notification to parents or guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation;
 - c. Outreach from the Charter School to determine pupil needs including connection with health and social services as necessary;
 - d. When the evaluation described above under paragraph 2 is triggered to consider whether remaining in independent study is in the best interest of the pupil, a pupil-parent-education conference shall be required to review a pupil's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the pupil's achievement and well-being. This conference shall be a meeting involving, at a minimum, all parties who signed the pupil's written independent study agreement.¹
5. The following plan shall be in place in accordance with Education Code Section 51747(e) for synchronous instruction and live interaction:
 - a. For pupils in kindergarten through grade 3, inclusive, the plan to provide opportunities for daily synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year by each pupil's assigned supervising teacher shall be provided through daily office hours offered in-person or virtually by every supervising

¹ The tiered reengagement strategies shall not apply to pupils that participate in an independent study program for fewer than 15 schooldays in a school year.

teacher where students will have access to one to one, small group, or classroom style instruction.

- b. For pupils in grades 4-6, inclusive, the plan to provide opportunities for daily live interaction between the pupil and a certificated or non-certificated employee of the School and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year by each pupil's assigned supervising teacher shall be provided through daily office hours offered in-person or virtually by every supervising teacher where students will have access to one to one, small group, or classroom style instruction.
6. Urban Charter Schools Collective shall transition of pupils whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days from the date that the family communicates their wish to return to in-person instruction in writing. Discussions will include the impact of the timing of the transition on the pupil's academic progress.
 7. A current written agreement shall be maintained on file for each independent study pupil, including but not limited to, all the following:
 - a. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a pupil's assignments and for reporting his or her progress, and for communication with a pupil's parent or guardian regarding a pupil's academic progress.
 - b. The objectives and methods of study for the pupil's work, and the methods utilized to evaluate that work.
 - c. The specific resources, including materials and personnel, that will be made available to the pupil. These resources shall include confirming or providing access to all pupils to connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work.
 - d. A statement of the policies adopted herein, pursuant to Education Code Section 51747(a) and (b), regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a pupil'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 pupil should be allowed to continue in independent study.
 - e. The duration of the independent study agreement, including beginning and ending dates for the pupil's participation in independent study under the agreement. No independent study agreement shall be valid for any period longer than one school year.
 - f. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the pupil upon completion.
 - g. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of pupils who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, individuals with exceptional needs in

order to be consistent with the pupil's individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794), pupils in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and pupils requiring mental health supports.

- h. The inclusion of a statement in each independent study agreement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate. In the case of a pupil who is referred or assigned to any school, class or program pursuant to Education Code Section 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the pupil through independent study only if the pupil is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.

Written agreements shall be signed, prior to the commencement of independent study, by the pupil, the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or care giver, if the pupil is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who has met the requirements of Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 6550) of the Family Code.

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 pupil commences independent study.

8. Urban Charter Schools Collective shall comply with the Education Code Sections 51745 through 51749.3 and the provisions of the Charter School's Act and the State Board of Education regulations adopted there under.
9. The Superintendent shall establish regulations to implement these policies in accordance with the law.

Adopted: October 18, 2021

Amended: