



KEPPEL

UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Independent Study

What is Independent Study and who is eligible?

Independent study is an alternative to classroom instruction consistent with a school district's course of study for grades TK - 8. Independent study is voluntary. For the 2021-22 school year, it is also an option for "a pupil whose health would be at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian."

If my child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), can they participate in Independent Study?

Students who qualify for special education services are only eligible for independent studies when the individualized educational program (IEP) team includes participation in independent studies as part of the student's IEP. Prior to a student with exceptional needs participating in this program, parents/guardians must request a time to meet with their IEP team to discuss if the Independent Study option is an appropriate placement. Please contact our Special Education Department if you have any additional questions (661) 944-0805.

Will specialized programs like AVID be offered through Independent Study?

No, Independent Study is a separate program offering, with its own staffing team. The AVID Program will be offered in-person only.

How do I enroll my student in Independent Study?

First, complete the [Enrollment Preference Form](#). The form must be completed before the program can be considered. An informational meeting will also be scheduled in the coming week based on preference. In order to finalize enrollment, a written agreement must be signed by the parent, student, and supervising educator prior or within 30 days of the first day of instruction.

KUSD is currently writing its written agreement forms to be in compliance with AB/SB 130 legislation (enacted July 9, 2021). If you have any additional questions regarding enrollment, please contact Instructional Services at (661) 262-1138.

What is the curriculum for Independent Study?

Students will have access to an online curriculum platform. Instructional content will be aligned to the student's grade level standards. More information will be forthcoming.

In addition, elements of "synchronous" instruction and "live interaction" are required throughout the school year for the Independent Study option. Specifically, students in TK through grade 3 must be offered opportunities for daily synchronous instruction. Students in grades 4 to 8 must be offered opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction.

What is the difference between "Synchronous" and "Live Interaction?"

Per AB/SB 130, these key terms are defined as follows:

"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.

"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.

How do I disenroll my student from Independent Study? Do they get to return to their homeschool?

The written agreement will require families to determine the timeframe of enrollment. However, for the 2021-22 school year, a parent or guardian may request disenrollment from Independent Study and transition back to in-person instruction at any time. The District will then have 5 days to assist in this transition.

Transition back to the homeschool will be dependent on space availability at the time, and is not a guarantee.