



Placer County Office of Education
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Gayle Garbolino-Mojica, County Superintendent of Schools

August 16, 2021

Dear Placer County Office of Education Community,

For the 2021-22 school year, parents and guardians of PCOE students have the option to enroll their student(s) in in-person instruction or independent study.

To help determine staffing needs, please let us know if you are interested in an independent study program by August 30, 2021. We will continue to accept students after this date, but we encourage you to decide as soon as possible.

Requesting a Parent-Teacher Conference

If you are interested in learning more about the independent study program, parents and guardians may request a student-parent-educator conference to ask questions before deciding on enrollment or disenrollment in independent study. The conference may be conducted by telephone, videoconference, or in-person. If you wish to request a conference for your student, please contact the site principal.

Enrolling, Disenrolling & Re-Enrolling

To enroll in independent study for the 2021-2022 school year, there must be a 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.

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

Students may re-enroll in independent study at any time during the 2021-2022 school year by providing written notice to the site principal.

Instructional Time

The goal of the independent study program is to provide an alternative to in-person instruction for students whose health may be at risk by attending school in person. Independent study is an educational program that provides instruction based on the state-adopted content standards by certificated teachers. There are specific requirements for instructional time that include both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. These expectations are outlined in the written Learning Agreement, which must be signed prior to enrollment.

For TK through 3rd grade, there will be a plan to provide students opportunities for daily synchronous instruction.

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

For 9th through 12th grade, there will be a plan to provide opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction.

Definitions

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

Live interaction means interaction between the student and teacher, an instructional aide or other personnel, and it may include other peers. This interaction may be in person, by internet, or phone.

If you are interested in independent study, or wish to schedule a conference to learn more about independent study, please contact your site principal.

Thank you,

Susan J Connolly

Susan Connolly
Assistant Superintendent, Student Services