

**UNITED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: INDEPENDENT STUDY

ADOPTED: March 11, 2008

REVISED:

118. INDEPENDENT STUDY	
1. Purpose	<p>The Board shall consider the approval of a course of independent study for a properly qualified student, as recommended by the Superintendent, on the condition that the student will demonstrate achievement of established academic standards as a result of participation in the independent study.</p> <p>The purposes of independent study shall be to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Extend the learning experience of the classroom.</li><li>2. Develop a student's judgment and self-reliance in the conduct of the learning experience.</li><li>3. Relate academic knowledge to the world of work and learning beyond the school.</li><li>4. Draw upon community resources as well as school resources for a student's educational program.</li><li>5. Include a greater variety of learning experiences within the educational program.</li><li>6. Identify and explore an area of particular interest.</li><li>7. Set personal learning goals and work toward achieving them, with appropriate staff guidance.</li><li>8. Learn to utilize various research tools and methods.</li></ol>
2. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4, 4.24	<p>Upon administrative recommendation, the Board shall approve each course of independent study and may designate the number of credits toward graduation to be awarded upon successful completion of each course, except that the Board reserves the right to assign no credit for an approved course.</p>

<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Each course of independent study must meet the requirements of applicable laws and regulations.</p> <p><u>Financial Responsibility</u></p> <p>The student or parent/guardian shall be responsible for all instructional costs beyond those normally associated with the regular course of study.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for implementing independent study which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Counsel students who apply for independent study.</li><li>2. Develop specified, measurable instructional objectives and standards for each planned course of independent study.</li><li>3. Assure that each student conducts study under appropriate staff guidance and supervision.</li><li>4. Monitor the progress of each student.</li><li>5. Certify the completion of each course of independent study based upon the original specified objectives.</li><li>6. Prepare recommendations for Board approval of courses of independent study.</li></ol>
<p>4. Guidelines</p>	<p>Recommendations for approval may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The qualifications of the student.</li><li>2. Objectives established for the course.</li><li>3. Description of the method of study and research to be undertaken.</li><li>4. Staff members assigned to advise the project.</li><li>5. Manner in which the project will be evaluated.</li><li>6. Proposal for the number of credits to be awarded for the course.</li></ol>

The Board directs that only those students shall be admitted to courses of independent study who demonstrate evidence of academic proficiency, maturity of judgment, a strong motivation to learn and self-reliance. Staff recommendations will be required.

Courses of independent study may not be limited to participation by a single student but may involve a group of students, subject to Board approval.

The courses of independent study do not exempt students from Board approved graduation requirements, but is in addition to them.

Students may take a high school course via independent study if there is a scheduling conflict. Both the teacher and the student must agree and the request must be processed through the Guidance Department and approved by the building principal. Approval of independent study for a course in the approved and operating curriculum will:

1. Require student(s) to follow the same procedures and responsibilities for assignments and assessment as students participating in the everyday class.
2. Result in a grade.
3. Result in awarding of credit toward graduation.

References:

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.4

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