



DATE: August 4, 2021

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mrs. Carmen Ghysels, Superintendent Chief Learning Officer

SUBJECT: First Read and Proposed Revisions to Board Policy and Administrative Regulations 6158 Independent Study

PRESENTED BY: Valerie Simpson, Executive Director of Educational Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Review proposed revisions to Board Policy and Administrative Regulations 6158 Independent Study and provide direction to approve or to bring back to the next regular board meeting for approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Policy updated to reflect NEW LAW (AB 130, 2021) which requires all districts, for the 2021-22 school year, to offer independent study to meet the educational needs of students unless a waiver is obtained and to adopt policy with specified components in order to generate apportionment for independent study.

Policy updates the minimum period of time permitted for independent study to be three consecutive school days, requires an evaluation to determine if the student should continue in independent study if the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress, and requires that content be aligned to grade-level standards including the requirement for high schools to offer access to all courses offered by the district for graduation and approved as creditable for A-G admission criteria.

Policy also updated to include the requirement for live interaction and/or synchronous instruction based on grade level, tiered re-engagement strategies for students not generating attendance for a specified period of time, expeditious transition for students whose families wish to return to in-person instruction, notice to parents/guardians of specified information, the provision of a student-parent-educator conference, upon request, prior to enrollment and/or disenrollment, and the keeping of additional records including documentation of each student's participation in live interaction and synchronous instruction on each school day, as applicable.

Policy updated to include material formerly in the AR regarding requirements for independent study and written agreements as well as new requirements regarding the same, including that written agreements must include a detailed statement of academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of particular students, that the agreement may be signed electronically as specified, and that, for the 2021-22 school year, the written agreement must be signed no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction. Policy updated to include material formerly in the AR regarding course-based independent study and to generally align the requirements of course-based independent study with the requirements for general independent study.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: N/A

PREPARED BY: Mindi Brenner for Valerie Simpson, Executive Director of Educational Services

Attachment: Compared Policy and Regulation