

Independent Study

The purpose of an independent study program is to provide additional, meaningful, individual educational experiences for students in which they have optimal involvement in initiating, planning and evaluation. Independent study may vary in length of time from study projects of several weeks within a given course to programs for a semester or year-long duration. These experiences will make available content and/or materials and personnel resources not available or practical in regular classroom study. Although guidance, contractual procedures and assessment will be under the leadership of professional personnel at the school, independent study may take the student into the greater school community for experiences under the co-sponsorship of people in other professions, business, government or industry. The range of opportunities for independent study and eligibility is established by the professional staff and the students and thoroughly discussed with students to ensure their awareness of such programs.

Guidelines

Development of a program. The following guidelines are implemented when an independent study program is established:

1. The program is established as part of, in lieu of, or in addition to, regular courses and may vary in time from a semester to a full school year;
2. The program normally will be for credit when completed as part of the work or in lieu of work for a credit-bearing course;
3. A faculty sponsor/advisor to whom each participating student reports on a regular basis must be assigned. Members of the community may serve as co-sponsors/advisors with members of the professional staff;
4. The program may permit the student to do all or part of the project outside the school building.

Principal's responsibilities. The principal is responsible for developing, in cooperation with the staff and students, procedures for achieving the following through designated faculty members:

1. Screening, approving and evaluating the programs and individual projects;
2. Assuring that the program is available to all qualified and interested students within the order of their requests and within the limits of staffing and funding;
3. Approving/Disapproving applications from students interested in participating in the program;
4. Approving/Disapproving a request to do all or part of a study project outside the school building;

5. Informing all students and staff of the possibility of an independent study program as part of the students' school experience;
6. Securing written authorization from the parent for the student to participate in independent study activities away from the school. Without parent approval, the student will be ineligible for participation in an out-of-school program.