

Long Beach Unified School District Beach Independent Study Program

Information and Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Independent Study Definitions

Live Interactions: interaction between the student and classified or certificated staff, and may include peers, provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness, included, but not limited to, wellness checks, progress monitoring, provisions of services, and instruction. This interaction may take place in person, or in the form of Internet or telephone communication. (Education Code 51745.5)

Student-parent-educator conference: a meeting involving, at a minimum, all parties who signed the student's written independent study agreement pursuant to Education Code 51747 or the written learning agreement pursuant to Education Code 51749.6. (Education Code 51745.5)

Synchronous instruction: 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 student. Synchronous instruction shall be provided by the teacher of record for that student pursuant to Education Code 51747.5. (Education Code 51745.5)

Independent Study Program Description

The Independent Study Program (ISP) is an optional alternative instructional strategy for students and families who desire a flexible, individualized learning plan where the parent/guardian serves as the home learning coach/monitor. This program, both short- and long-term, provides families a self-paced program designed by a certificated teacher using all the learning materials and curriculum available to LBUSD students.

Elementary Independent Study students will participate in daily synchronous instruction with their assigned certificated teacher for 1 hour daily. Elementary students will also have 2.5 - 5 hours of Asynchronous assignments daily (depending on their grade level).

Middle and High School Independent Study Students will participate in Synchronous instruction each day for at least 30 minutes. Students will have asynchronous class each day and will rotate class periods throughout the week. An additional 4-6 hours of Asynchronous work will also be assigned each day (depending on grade level), 15 minutes daily to review student progress, discuss learning needs and upcoming coursework, assignments, and participate in weekly instruction for a minimum of 60 minutes per week.

Who is an ideal candidate for Independent Study? IS Student Profile

Students who succeed in Independent Study:

- Have the ability to read instructions and information from a teacher who is not present and/or available on a daily basis or has support at home to help coach them in this way
- Have enough self-discipline and self-motivation to engage in their learning without much prompting and/or have support at home to help coach them in this way
- Are organized and manage their time well
- Establish a set academic schedule or routine

- Have a caring adult who monitors their completion of work
- Are committed to complete all their assignments
- Are willing to ask their teacher and/or parent for help
- Participate in all required activities regularly

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- Create a positive learning environment free from distractions.
- Provide a designated workspace
- Establish a schedule for completing all coursework
- Teach, coach, and support your child every day.
- Help students submit completed assignments on time.
- Communicate with the certificated teacher regularly via email, phone calls, and other messaging options.
- Monitor attendance and participation
- Properly assist the teacher to meet all the requirements of Independent Study as required by the Education Code.
- Attend monthly in-person conferences at the site or via online video conferencing.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- Provide synchronous instruction and prepare academically rigorous asynchronous work
- Provide ongoing educational support during daily or weekly in-person and/or digital face-to-face meetings,
- Monitor academic progress
- Provide assessment and data analysis, and
- Be available for consultations with families.

This program will be offered for the 2021-22 school year by the LBUSD for students whose health would be put at risk with in-person instruction.

Frequently Asked Questions & Other Important Information

1. How much work will my student have to complete?

Independent Study students will complete the same amount of work as they would in a classroom setting. The main difference includes greater flexibility through self-paced work completion.

The student will have daily or weekly synchronous instruction (depending on grade level) and contact with the teacher and to submit assignments, take scheduled assessments, and review new assignments given.

2. What if my student does not turn in assignments or make educational progress?

An evaluation will be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in Independent Study whenever the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or misses three assignments. In accordance with E.C. 51747 and Board Policy 6158:

- a. If a student is missing assignments or failing to meet the Independent Study agreements, a conference will be held to determine if Independent Study or another educational program will better suit the student's needs.

Students enrolled in the Independent Study program will receive all appropriate textbooks and materials equivalent to what is received for in-person instruction, as well as a Chromebook and HotSpot (if needed).

Students are strongly encouraged to contact their teacher if they have any questions throughout the week.

3. Will late assignments be accepted?

Late assignments will not be accepted. Please make sure that all assignments are turned in by the due dates.

4. What are the requirements to be considered for Independent Study, and how do I apply?

Your child must be enrolled currently at one of LBUSD's schools. Each school site has an Independent Study designee who will provide information for eligibility for the Independent Study Program. Contact your child's school for more information.

5. My child has an IEP or 504 Plan, can I still enroll them for the Independent Study program?

A student with disabilities shall not participate in Independent Study unless his or her IEP specifically provides for that participation (Ed. Code § 51745 (c)). If you are interested in having your (Tk-12) student participate in Independent Study, please notify your school to schedule an IEP meeting so that the team can discuss and make a recommendation for your child's Individualized Education Program.

If you have a student with a 504 plan and you are interested in Independent Study for your child, please contact your child's school counselor to schedule a 504 meeting, so that the team can discuss how to appropriately meet your child's needs.

A temporarily disabled student (home hospital) shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code §48206.3(b)

A preschool student with a disability, or Adult Community Transition program student (ages 18-22) is not eligible for Independent Study. Please contact your school's administrator to request an IEP to discuss your student's needs.

6. Are Independent Study teachers dedicated to Independent Study only?

Yes. However, adjustments may have to be made depending on the number of students enrolled in Independent Study.

7. Will students in Independent Study be taught by teachers from their home school?

No. Students may be assigned to any teacher in the Independent Study program.

8. I have created my own home curriculum. Can I use this to teach my children for the Independent Study program?

No, any curriculum used for Independent Study needs to be an approved LBUSD curriculum. Any additional resources you use for instruction are in addition to assigned instructional resources and assignments.

9. Can students return to in-person instruction during the school year?

Yes. Every situation is unique. All students have the option of a full program in a traditional classroom setting at the time Independent Study is made available and should the student

decide to transfer from Independent Study at any time, the option of a traditional classroom setting will be available. Please contact your site administrator if you feel you need a program change.

10. How much does attendance affect my student’s continued enrollment in the Independent Study Program?

Attendance is required for all educational programs in our school district. Students that have missed 3 or more days of school or who are in violation of their written agreement, will be called to a meeting to discuss if continued placement in Independent Study is appropriate.

11. The district implements a variety of technological platforms to facilitate Independent Study including but not limited to:

- Canvas
- Zoom
- APEX
- IReady

12. I have a question about Independent Study. Who should I contact?

Contact your school site counselor or administrator beginning August 20th.

13. Is Independent Study an option for all LBUSD students?

Yes, AB 130 ensures that all CA students have an OPTION to enroll in Independent Study.

14. What will my student’s schedule look like - how much time will they have with a teacher online?

Instructional Time	Description	Length & Frequency by Grade Level
Synchronous Instructional Time	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 student. Synchronous instruction shall be provided by the teacher(s) of record for that student.	<p><u>TK - Grade 5</u> - 60 minutes per day</p> <p><u>Grades 6 - 12</u> - weekly 30 minutes for each course</p>
Live Interaction	Interaction between the student and school 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.	<p><u>Grades TK - 8</u></p> <p>Daily</p>
Asynchronous Instructional Time	Forms of instruction that do not occur in the same place or at the same time. The term is most commonly applied to various forms of digital and online learning in which students learn from instruction—such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own—that are not being delivered in person or in real time. Yet asynchronous learning may also encompass a wide variety of instructional interactions, including email exchanges between teachers, online discussion boards, and course-management systems that organize	<p><u>Minimum Time:</u></p> <p><u>TK - Grade 5:</u> 2 hours and 30 minutes/day - 5 hours/day</p> <p><u>Grades 6 - 12:</u> 4 hours/day - 6 hours/day</p>

	instructional materials and correspondence, among many other possible variations.	
In-Person Teacher Conference	Interaction between the student and teacher of record to review student's academic progress and provide wellness checks.	All Grades: <i>1 meeting per month in person</i>

15. Will the teachers be LBUSD teachers?

Yes.

16. What if my child needs a chromebook, textbooks or other materials for IS?

The Beach Staff will inform families of distribution dates for textbooks, materials and chromebooks.

17. Will this be the same as last year's distance learning?

No, this is Independent Study meaning the students will have more asynchronous learning time (see above for the definition and minutes).

18. Will the Synchronous Instruction be via Zoom?

Yes, Beach IS will check to make sure families have access to technology during enrollment.

19. Can the district (LBUSD) reconsider Distance Learning or Hybrid Instruction?

The law that allowed distance learning last year sunsetted in June 2021 and AB130 has taken its place. AB130 ensures all families have the option to enroll in Independent Study for the 2021-2022 school year.

20. My student is in GATE classes, how will this look in IS?

There are no GATE classes in Independent Study, however, teachers will differentiate instruction to meet the needs of their students.

21. Will AP classes be offered for HS students?

Yes, there are 13 AP courses that will be offered via APEX.

22. Will students be able to participate in promotional activities?

Since we are uncertain about the end of year activities at this time, this is uncertain. However, the district will do its best to ensure all students have access to promotional activities.

23. Will the process for enrolling in Independent Study be universal across all district schools? Yes, families should meet with their school counselor or administrator.

MYTHS about Independent Study

- **The work assigned is very easy.** As mentioned above, students in Independent Study will receive the same amount and type of classwork as students in district in-person instruction.
- **Students won't be tested on assignments.** Assessments help inform the student, the parent/guardian, and the teacher about what the student has learned and what they still need help with, so there will be assessments scheduled throughout Independent Study.

- **There is lots of “free time” since students only have synchronous classes for a reduced amount of time.** Students in Independent Study will have the same amount of time as students in the classroom to complete assignments. The only difference is that they will meet with their teacher/s for a limited amount of time each day. However, the rest of the time will be spent completing the required asynchronous work. The student, parent/guardian, and teacher will work together to make sure all students are supported and challenged.
- **Students can meet with their teacher on a drop-in basis.** In addition to the required weekly check-in meeting, students are encouraged to email or message teachers as questions arise. If students require more than an email response, they can make a request for an additional meeting time during the week.
- **Students can work entirely at their own pace.** While students can work at their own pace throughout the week, they are expected to complete and submit assignments as they are due.