

BOARD POLICY**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION****Santa Cruz, California****Instruction****BP 6158.1 (a)****Independent Study to Implement Assembly Bill 130 and Assembly Bill 167 (2021)**

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education has previously authorized independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for eligible students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. (cf. 6158 – Independent Study.) With the enactment of Assembly Bill No. 130 (Ch. 44, Stats. 2021, hereafter “AB 130”), school districts and county offices of education are required to offer independent study for the 2021-2022 school year, with limited exceptions. The subsequent enactment of Assembly Bill 167 (Ch. 252, Stats. 2021, hereafter “AB 167”), added and modified the provisions of independent study for school districts and county offices of education.

Education Code section 51747, as it read prior to July 8, 2021, provided that a local educational agency shall not be eligible to receive apportionments for independent study unless it has adopted and implemented written policies as specified in that statute. AB 130 and AB 167 continue the requirement for local educational agencies to adopt and implement written policies, and add additional content required to be included in such policies. This policy and related administrative regulation are intended to supplement Board Policy (BP) and Administrative Regulation (AR) No. 6158 to include the additional requirements of AB 130 and AB 167. To the extent that there is any conflict between this policy and BP and AR No. 6158, the provisions of this policy and administrative regulation shall govern.

The District shall comply with the requirements of AB 130 and AB 167 by either providing an independent study option to all students or contracting with the County Office of Education or through an interdistrict transfer agreement with another school district to provide independent study to students. Alternatively, the District may seek a waiver of the requirement to provide an independent study option.

The minimum period for independent study participation shall be three (3) consecutive school days. This Board Policy supersedes any prior policy setting the minimum period at five (5) consecutive schooldays. For the 2021-2022 school year only, there is no minimum time period for participation in independent study.

The Administration shall adopt Regulations implementing this policy in compliance with AB 130, AB 167 and related provisions.

*Legal Reference:**EDUCATION CODE 51745-51749.6**(Assembly Bill 130 (Stats. 2021, Ch. 44) – July 9, 2021)**(Assembly Bill 167 (Stats. 2021, Ch. 252 – September 23, 2021)**Board Adopted: May 19, 2022*