



Independent Study Policy

The Cottonwood School may offer independent study to meet the educational needs of pupils enrolled in the charter school. Independent study is an alternative education designed to teach knowledge and skills of the core curriculum. The Charter School shall provide appropriate existing services and resources to enable pupils to complete their independent study successfully.

The purpose of the The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving this Independent Study Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Time in Which an Assignment Must Be Completed
2. Establish the Procedure for Placement Determination
3. Outline What Must Be Included in a Current Written Agreement
4. Outline How Average Daily Attendance Will Be Calculated
5. Establish Compliance with the Education Code
6. Establish the Implementation of the Independent Study Policy

1. Time in Which an Assignment Must Be Completed: For pupils in all grade levels offered by the School, the maximum length of time that may elapse between the time an assignment is made the date by which the pupil must complete the assigned work shall be twenty (20) school days.

2. Placement Determination: A pupil may miss two (2) assignments during any period of twenty (20) school days before an evaluation is conducted to determine whether it is in the best interest of the pupil to remain in independent study. Therefore, whether any pupil fails to complete two (2) assignments during any period of twenty (20) school days, the Director of Academic Program or his or her designee shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the best interest of the pupil to remain in independent study. A writing record of the findings of any evaluation conducted pursuant to this policy shall be treated as a mandatory interim pupil record. This record shall be maintained for a period of three years from the date of the evaluation and if the pupil transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

3. Current Written Agreement: A current written agreement shall be on file for each independent study pupil, including but not limited to, all of the following:

- a. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a pupil's assignments and for reporting his or her progress.
- b. The objectives and methods of study for the pupil's work, and the methods utilized, to evaluate that work.
- c. The specific resources, including materials and personnel, which will be made available to the pupil.

- d. A statement of the policies adopted herein regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a pupil's assigned work, and the number of missed assignments allowed prior to an evaluation of whether or not the pupil should be allowed to continue in independent study.
 - e. The duration of the independent study agreement, including beginning and ending dates for the pupil's participation in independent study under the agreement. No independent study agreement shall be valid for any period longer one school year.
 - f. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the pupil upon completion.
 - g. The inclusion of a statement in each independent study agreement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate. In the case of a pupil who is referred or assigned to any school, class or program pursuant to Education Code Section 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the pupil through independent study only if the pupil is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.
 - h. Each written agreement shall be signed prior to the commencement of independent study, by the pupil, the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or care giver, if the pupil is under 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility or the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who has met the requirements of Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 6550) of the Family Code.
- 4. Average Daily Attendance:** It is the policy of this Board that each student is, at a minimum, expected to accomplish the following in order for the student to be counted as present/attending for Average Daily Attendance (ADA) purposes:
- a. Students will initial "Monthly Independent Study Log" on the school days where they have completed school work Monday through Fridays that are not school holidays. Parents/guardians will sign the monthly log under the following statement: "By signing this log, I verify that my student completed school work on these days."
- 5. Compliance with the Education Code:** The Charter School shall comply with the Education Code Sections 51745 through 51749.3 and the provision of the Charter School's Act and the State Board of Education regulation adopted there under.
- 6. Implementation of Independent Study Policy:** The Directors shall establish regulations to implement these policies in accordance with the law.