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# Los Angeles County Office of Education

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July 30, 2021

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## PARENT NOTIFICATION LETTER Independent Study Program Option

### Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 130 into law on July 9, 2021. The bill requires that for the 2021-2022 school year, LACOE offer an Independent Study option to students and families whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian.

State and federal laws require us to inform you of your option to enroll your student in an Independent Study program instead of in-person instruction. LACOE will offer an Independent Study option through its existing program at Renaissance PAU. This letter explains:

- Your right to request a parent-teacher conference prior to enrollment to inform your decision.
- The process and your student's rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and re-enrolling in Independent Study.
- The asynchronous and synchronous instructional time that your student will have access to as part of independent study.

### Requesting a Parent-Teacher Conference

It is your right to request a parent-teacher conference prior to enrolling your student in Independent Study in order to inform your decision and ensure that it is appropriate for your student. For special education students, participation in Independent Study continues to be subject to IEP team determination as already provided in the law.

### Enrolling, Disenrolling and Re-Enrolling

Once you have determined that you would like to pursue Independent Study, you may begin the enrollment process. LACOE shall obtain a signed written Master Agreement for students participating in Independent Studies. Prior to signing the Independent Study written Master Agreement, LACOE will hold a pupil-parent-educator conference or school meeting via phone, videoconference, or in-person.

During the conference or school meeting, attendees may ask questions about the educational options, curriculum offerings, and nonacademic supports available to the pupil. **For the 2021-2022 school year only, written Master Agreements must be signed no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.** If you are enrolled in Independent Study and would like to return to in-person instruction, you must follow the procedure for disenrolling. Once disenrolled, should you need to return to Independent Study you are required to adhere to the re-enrollment process.

**Instructional Time**

The goal of LACOE’s Independent Study program is to provide an alternative to in-person instruction to students whose health may be put at risk by attending class face-to-face. As such, Independent Study is an educational program that provides instruction based on the state-adopted content standards by certificated teachers. There are specific requirements for instructional time that may include both synchronous and asynchronous work. These expectations will also be outlined in the students’ written Master Agreement, which must be signed prior to enrollment. It is important to note that students participating in this option will not have the same teacher as the one they were enrolled with while they were in-person.

Instructional Time	Description
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.
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.
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 instructional materials and correspondence, among many other possible variations.

AB 130 LACOE Parent Notification  
July 30, 2021  
Page 3

Parents or guardians may select an instructional program that best suits their child's needs. Please let us know if you plan to participate in the Independent Study option by August 10, 2021. You can inform your school principal or contact LACOE Educational Programs Registrar, Larry Canter at [canter\\_larry@lacoedu](mailto:canter_larry@lacoedu). If you have any questions beyond the details listed above, please contact LACOE Educational Programs Registrar, Larry Canter at [canter\\_larry@lacoedu](mailto:canter_larry@lacoedu).

Sincerely,

  
Jason Hasty, Jul 30, 2021 16:25 PDT

Jason Hasty, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
Educational Programs

JH/DV:en