

Enhancing Flexibility and Student Access

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Educating Students for Success.

Executive Summary

Updates to Board Policy 6158 – Independent Study

- In June 2023, Senate Bill 114 made significant changes to Education Code section 46393, which provides for independent study in the event of public health emergencies, natural disasters, and other safety hazards making in-person instruction infeasible for some or all students
- Governs Independent Study (IS) as an alternative instructional model
- Provides students with flexible, individualized learning options
- Supports students needing an alternative to in-person instruction
- Recent updates enhance accessibility, equity, and engagement

Executive Summary Cont.

Key Benefits of Policy Updates:

- **Greater Flexibility**
 - Schools can better support students' unique needs
- **Stronger Student Support**
 - More inclusive opportunities for students with IEPs
- **Improved Engagement**
 - Enhanced requirements for synchronous learning
- **Increased Access**
 - Shorter IS durations now count for ADA funding
- **Compliance & Accountability**
 - Ensures adherence to state mandates

Key Policy Updates

- Short-Term IS Extended
 - Now up to 15 days (previously 14)
- Long-Term IS Adjusted
 - Begins at 16 days (previously 15)
- ADA Funding Change
 - No longer a minimum duration requirement for Independent Study (previously 3 days minimum)

Implementation Plan for Lodi USD

- Staff Training
 - Ensure administrators and teachers understand new guidelines
- Family Communication
 - Inform parents about independent study options
- Tracking & Compliance
 - Strengthen monitoring systems for IS participation
- Student Support
 - Provide additional resources for IS engagement
- Ongoing Review
 - Evaluate effectiveness and adjust as needed

