



Carla J. Haakma  
Superintendent/Principal

## Bellevue Elementary School District

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

On July 21, 2021, the California Department of Education handed down new rules and regulations concerning Independent Study for this school year only. In order to provide families with educational alternatives that meet their needs, Districts are required to offer an Independent Study program. There are specific rules and words which may be unfamiliar to you. Here are the definitions so we can both understand the components of the new program.

Historically, Independent Study was offered to families who were going on vacation or otherwise would be unable to have their child in school for a short time – from at least 5 school days to not more than 15 school days. This program is still available and is now called **SHORT TERM INDEPENDENT STUDY**. The number of days for short-term IS have changed to 3-14 cumulative school days.

Now, for the 2021-2022 school year, to address the ongoing pandemic and the associated needs of families, there is a new Independent Study program called **LONG TERM INDEPENDENT STUDY**. Students may enroll in this program for longer than short-term independent study and up to the entire 2021-2022 school year.

**LIVE INTERACTION** means interaction between the student and school staff (and may include peers) 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 via the Internet or phone.

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY**, often referred to as LEA, means a school district, so Bellevue District is your child's LEA.

**PUPIL-PARENT-EDUCATOR CONFERENCE** means a meeting involving, at a minimum, all parties who sign the pupil's written independent study agreement.

**SYNCHRONOUS INSTRUCTION** means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet or telephone communications and involving live two-way communication between the pupil and his/her teacher of record. Synchronous instruction shall be provided by the teacher of record for that pupil. For students in TK through grade 3, daily synchronous instruction is required for all pupils throughout the school year. Students in grades 4 to 8 will have opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction throughout the school year.

**SATISFACTORY EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS** means the pupil's achievement and engagement in the Independent Study program is seen in assignment completion, assessments, attendance, active participation, and progress toward successful completion of the course of study as determined by the supervising teacher.

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**TIERED RE-ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES** means if your child is not attending for more than 3 school days or 60% of the instructional days in a school week or is in violation of the written agreement, District staff will verify current contact information for the pupil, notify parent/guardian of lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation, will develop a plan for outreach to determine pupil needs including connecting with health/social services as necessary, and will review the clear standard for requiring a pupil-parent-educator conference to review the written agreement and reconsider the Independent Study program's impact on the pupil's achievement and well-being, consistent with satisfactory educational progress.

**DOCUMENTED INTERACTION** means District staff will maintain documentation regarding the participation of each student each school day for which the student is enrolled in Independent Study.

**ENROLLMENT** means you voluntarily choose to have your child participate in Independent Study.

**DISENROLLMENT** means your written agreement to have your child participate in Independent Study is being terminated at the request of the parent or due to failure to follow the terms of the agreement.

**REENROLLMENT** means your child will be transitioned to in-person learning. This will take place expeditiously, and in no case, later than 5 instructional days.

Sincerely,

*Carla J. Haakma*

Carla J. Haakma, Superintendent-Principal

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