

Mojave Unified School District

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PARENTAL NOTICE REGARDING INDEPENDENT STUDY OPTIONS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s):

We are excited to welcome all students back to in-person school five days a week starting on August 12, 2021. In addition to in-person instruction, the Mojave Unified School District will be providing Independent Study for the 2021-2022 school year for students 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(s) in an Independent Study program instead of in-person instruction. From these options, you may choose the one that best suits your student(s). This letter also explains:

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

Please also review the District's Independent Study Handbook for more specific information regarding Independent Study for the 2021-2022 school year. Information regarding Independent Study based on health risk for the 2021-2022 can be found on pages 10 through 12 of the Independent Study Handbook.

Independent Study Instructional Time

For the 2021-2022 school year the Independent Study Program has been modified to provide an alternative to in-person instruction to students whose health may be put at risk by attending class in-person. 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.

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Live interaction means interaction between the student and 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.

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 telephonic communications, and involving live two-way communication between the teacher and student. Synchronous instruction shall be provided by the teacher of record for that student.

Asynchronous instruction means instruction that does 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.

Students enrolled in Independent Study will receive both Live Interaction and Synchronous Instruction based on their grade levels. Students in independent study will receive the following:

- TK-3 grade students: Daily 30 minutes synchronous instruction
- Grades 4-8 students: Daily live interaction and 1 hour weekly synchronous instruction
- Grades 9-12 students: Instruction using APEX program, daily live interaction and 1 hour of weekly synchronous instruction

Requesting a Student-Parent-Educator Conference

It is your right to request a student-parent-educator conference prior to enrolling your student(s) in Independent Study to inform your decision and ensure that it is appropriate for your student(s). To do so, contact Priya Darbari, Director of Curriculum Integrations and Educational Partnerships via email at priyadarshinidarbair@mojave.k12.ca.us or telephone at 661-749-6363.

Enrolling in Independent Study

Once you have determined that you would like to pursue Independent Study, you can begin the enrollment process by contacting your school site.

Disenrolling from Independent Study & Re-Enrolling in In-Person Instruction

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If you are enrolled in Independent Study and would like to return to in-person instruction, you must contact the school site. The school secretary will provide you with the necessary forms to indicate the disenrollment in Independent Study. This may take up to 5 instructional days.

Once disenrolled in Independent Study, you are required to adhere to the procedures and guidelines of our in-person instruction program. Re-enrollment in Independent Study may take place based on the student's needs.

If you have any questions beyond the details listed above, please contact Priya darbari at priyadarshinidarbair@mojave.k12.ca.us to ask about the process. As you make your decision about Independent Study options, you may want to review the California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year.

Sincerely,

Dr .Katherine Aguirre
Superintendent