

# Independent Study Overview for ARUSD Families

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2021/2022



# ARUSD In-Person Instructional Day

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Beginning Tuesday August 17, 2021

- CCSS aligned core curriculum is ensured for all students through whole group and small group instruction
- Curriculum will be consistent with what is utilized for independent study, and can be found in our Curriculum Matrix, located on our webpage.

What curriculum will be used for In Person Instruction?

The In Person instructional day is outlined below. **This schedule will be consistent with the independent study schedule.**

Tentative Schedules:

➤ Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays

- TK-K: 8:30-11:50
- 1st-3rd grades: 8:30-2:35
- 4th-5th grades: 8:30-2:55
- 6th-8th grades: 8:30-2:45

➤ Thursdays

- TK-K: 8:30-11:50
- 1st-3rd grades: 8:30-1:20
- 4th-5th grades: 8:30-1:40
- 6th-8th grades: 8:30-1:30

In Person Instructional Day

- Everyone will wear masks indoors at all schools. Masks are recommended for everyone outdoors, except when eating, on Alum Rock school campuses.
- There will be some physical distancing in classrooms. Per CDPH, in-person instruction can occur safely with minimal physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (eg. masking) are implemented.
- Non essential visitors will not be allowed on campuses
- Health checks will be done at home by parents - sick students need to stay home
- Isolation rooms will be used if someone does become ill while on campus
- PPE is available, including gloves and masks. If someone arrives without a mask they should be provided one.
- Water fountains will remain closed. Water bottle filling stations can be used.

## **In Person Health & Safety Protocols (Slide 1)**

- Prior to entering the cafeteria, students should wash their hands (preferably) or use hand sanitizer. Each cafeteria will have a hand sanitizer station by the entrance. We will not have a sharing table. Students will be able to eat in the cafeteria and outside to maintain distancing.
- Each cafeteria will have a hand sanitizer station at entrance for easy use as students enter.
- Students should sit 3 feet apart when eating since they will have their mask off. We're adding outside seating at many school sites.
- Middle schools will have 2 serving lines. One for hot food and one for cold items. At this time, middle schools will not serve a la carte items.

## **In Person Health & Safety Protocols (Slide 2)**

# Recent Assembly Bill Information

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Two Assembly Bills were signed by our Governor July 1, 2021:

- AB 104 Pupil Instruction: retention
- AB 130 Independent Study

Important Recent Assembly Bills



## AB 104:

- Requires an LEA, upon receiving a written request from the parent of an eligible pupil to retain the pupil for the 2021-22 school year, to offer the parent a consultation with the parent, the pupil, the administrator, and a teacher. This consultation shall occur within 30 calendar days of receiving the written request for a consultation, and the LEA is required to notify the parent with the final determination of the LEA's decision within 10 calendar days of the consultation.
- An eligible pupil is a student in grades K through 11 who, during the 20-21 school year, received deficient grades (a D, F, No Pass, or as otherwise defined by the school agency) in at least half of their courses.

# ARUSD Independent Study Model

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AB 130

## AB 130:

- The State of California is requiring school districts to offer independent studies for students whose health would be at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian for 2021-2022 school year only. ARUSD will offer an Independent Studies program for those students whose health would be put at risk as determined by parent/guardian.

Assembly Bill AB 130

- 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 Learning Agreement, which must be signed prior to enrollment.

What is Independent Study?

- Students in grades TK-3rd will receive daily synchronous/asynchronous instruction which will include a daily live interaction to support students Social Emotional Learning.
- Students in grades 4th-8th will receive weekly synchronous/asynchronous instruction, live interaction to support students Social Emotional Learning.
- Zoom, Seesaw, and Google Classroom will be utilized as our main instructional delivery methods.
- CCSS aligned core curriculum is ensured for all students through whole group and small group instruction.
- Assessments to monitor learning loss and overall performance will be administered to all students.
- Tutoring and counseling services will be made available as appropriate

## General Instructional Guidelines

- All students in grades TK-8th grade can enroll in Independent Study.
- Enrollment requirements:
  - Families who elect the Independent Studies program for their student(s) will sign a written agreement outlining all the details of the independent study course.
  - Students who miss more than three school days or 60% of instructional days or who are in violation of a written contract will work with district personnel to follow re-engagement strategies established by the district.
  - Families that are interested will be required to attend an orientation meeting
  - Families have the right to request a pupil-parent-educator meeting before enrolling.
  - Students that sign an agreement to begin the school year in Independent Studies and later choose to transition to in-person instruction, will not be guaranteed a reentry to their home school and/or their homeroom teacher.

What grade levels can enroll in Independent Study?  
How do they enroll?

- Students in grades TK-3rd will receive daily synchronous instruction which will include a daily live interaction to support students social emotional learning.
- Students in grades 4th-8th will receive weekly synchronous/asynchronous instruction, live interaction to support students social emotional learning.

Is Independent Study the same at all grades?

- Parents can select Independent Study or In-Person Instruction at any point during the 2021/2022 school year.

Can parents/guardians of students select Independent Study or In-Person instruction at any time?



- Independent Study is an optional program, and cannot be mandated by ARUSD.
- If students are not following the master agreement the Independent Study Administrator will meet with the family to determine whether continuing in independent study is appropriate.

Can students be moved into or out of Independent Study by the school?

- CCSS aligned core curriculum is ensured for all students through whole group and small group instruction
- Curriculum will be consistent with what is utilized for in-person instruction, and can be found in our Curriculum Matrix, located on our webpage.

What curriculum will be used for Independent Study?

## Tentative Schedules:

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays
  - TK-K: 8:30-11:50
  - 1st-3rd grades: 8:30-2:35
  - 4th-5th grades: 8:30-2:55
  - 6th-8th grades: 8:30-2:45
- Thursdays
  - TK-K: 8:30-11:50
  - 1st-3rd grades: 8:30-1:20
  - 4th-5th grades: 8:30-1:40
  - 6th-8th grades: 8:30-1:30

What is the daily schedule for Independent Study?

- Please call the Tech Department Support Line at 408-928-6917 if you need a hotspot for internet connectivity or device repair.
- Support is provided in English, Spanish, & Vietnamese from 7:30-4:30 Monday-Friday.

What do I do if my child needs internet access or a device for Independent Study?

- For students with an IEP, any request for retention or independent study (IS) will be addressed through an IEP meeting.
  - Once a request has been received, an IEP meeting will be held within 30 days.
  - IEP teams, including the parent/guardian, will make determinations regarding placement in IS on an individual basis. When a student is placed in the IS program, it is a change of placement.
  - After reviewing relevant data, including the student's participation and progress made during the 20/21 school year, the IEP team will determine if the student's current IEP and all services (speech, ABA, OT, etc.), including access to general education, can be implemented in an IS program.
  - For students with documented medical conditions, the IEP team should consider Home-Hospital instruction instead of IS.

What if my child has an IEP?

- FAQ's (SCCOE)
- FAQ's from CDE

Additional Independent Study information

# Next Steps for Families

## To Do:

- Families who are still interested in the Independent Studies program for their student(s) will come to the district office to sign the master written agreement outlining all the details of the independent study course.

Please attend your students assigned grade level meeting time listed below:

- Tuesday, August 10, 2021
  - TK - 3rd- Time: 9:00am to 12:00pm
  - 4th - 8th- Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 (Only need to attend once)

- 3:00pm to 6:00pm (families who were unable to attend on Tuesday, August 10th)

If you have any questions please contact student services at 408.928.6945