

Our Mission

Every Child Learning, Every Day, No Matter What It Takes!



Our Vision

The Arvin Union School District focuses on the educational, environmental and emotional needs of our community with a culture of unity and a dedication to student success. We provide equitable educational services to enhance all students' lives preparing for High School and beyond through a system of continuous improvement. We are accountable for financial stability, infrastructure maintenance and developing staff capacity for the achievement of student goals with a common direction produced through Trust, Transparency and Teamwork.

Independent Study Definitions

Live Interactions: interaction between the student and classified or certificated staff, and may include peers, provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness, included, but not limited to, wellness checks, progress monitoring, provisions of services, and instruction. This interaction may take place in person, or in the form of Internet or telephone communication. (Education Code 51745.5)

Student-parent-educator conference: a meeting involving, at a minimum, all parties who signed the student's written independent study agreement pursuant to Education Code 51747 or the written learning agreement pursuant Education Code 51749.6. (Education Code 51745.5)

Synchronous instruction: 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 pursuant to Education Code 51747.5. (Education Code 51745.5)

Arvin Independent Study Program

The Arvin Independent Study Program (ISP) is an optional alternative instructional strategy for students and families who desire a flexible, individualized learning plan where the parent/guardian serves as the home learning coach. This program, both short- and long-term, provides families a self-paced program designed by a certificated teacher using all the learning materials and curriculum available to AUSD students. Middle School Independent Study participants meet with their assigned certificated teacher 15 minutes daily to review student progress, discuss learning needs and upcoming coursework, assignments, and participation in weekly instruction for a minimum of 60 minutes per week. Elementary Middle School participants meet with their assigned certificated teacher for 1 hour each day for instruction to review student progress, discuss learning needs, and upcoming coursework and assignments.

The parent/guardian will need to create a positive learning environment and workspace, establish a weekly schedule for course work access as outlined by the teacher, and monitor attendance and course work completion. The teacher will provide on-going educational support during weekly in-person and/or digital face-to-face meetings, progress monitoring, assessment and data analysis, and consultations with families.

This program is offered for the 2021-22 school year by the Arvin Union School District for students whose health would be put at risk with in-person instruction.

Frequently Asked Questions & Other Important Information

How much work will my student have to complete?

Independent Study students will complete the same amount of work as they would in a regular school day. The main difference includes greater flexibility through self-paced weekly work completion.

The student will conference once weekly with their teacher and parent/guardian to submit assignments, take scheduled assessments, and review new assignments for the upcoming week. All assigned work is due and graded at the end of the week assigned.

The due date of assigned work cannot be extended, even due to illness so the work must be turned in.

An evaluation will be conducted to determine whether it is in a student's best interest to remain in Independent Study whenever the student fails to make satisfactory educational progress and/or misses three assignments. In accordance with E.C. 51747 and Board

Policy 6158, if a student is missing assignments or failing to meet the Independent Study agreements a conference will be held to determine if Independent Study or another educational program will better suit the student's needs.

Students on Independent Studies will receive all the materials other students receive, including a Chromebook, textbooks, and instructions that will be explained to them and their parents/guardians. Students are strongly encouraged to contact their teacher if they have any questions throughout the week, however, their teacher will have other students to support and may not be immediately available.

What are the requirements to be considered for Independent Studies, and how do I apply?

Your child must be currently enrolled at one of AUSD's schools. Each school site has an administrator in charge of providing information for eligibility for Arvin's Independent Studies Program. Contact your child's school for a paper application or click [here](#) to submit the online Independent Study application. The district is limited to ten percent of the students enrolled in the school for Independent Studies seats, so some applicants may not be accepted.

For the 2021-22 school year only, the district shall obtain a signed written agreement for Independent Study no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction.

How long will my student be on Independent Study?

The amount of time your student will be on Independent Study depends on multiple factors: the family's needs, student academic success in the Independent Study Program, the state of health and education in Kern County and California, and space availability within the school to name a few.

The short-term Independent Study Program has a three-day minimum. The long-term Independent Study Program is continuous and can continue for the entire school year.

My child has an IEP/504 Plan, can I still enroll them for the Independent Studies program?

A student with disabilities shall not participate in Independent Study unless his or her IEP specifically provides for that participation. (Ed. Code § 56026) If you are interested in having your student participate in Independent Study, please contact your child's case manager to schedule an IEP meeting so that the team can discuss and make a recommendation for your child's Individualized Education Program.

If you have a student with a 504 plan and you are interested in Independent Study for your child, please contact your child's school principal to schedule a 504 meeting so that the team can discuss how to appropriately meet your child's needs.

A temporarily disabled student shall not receive individual instruction pursuant to Education Code 48206.3 through course-based Independent Study.

Will the expectations of Independent Studies be universal across district elementary schools? Yes

Are Independent Study teachers dedicated to Independent Studies only?

It depends on the number of students enrolled in Independent Studies throughout the school year.

Will students in Independent Studies be taught by teachers from their home school?

To the extent possible, however, to support grade level work, students may be assigned a teacher at another school.

I have created my own home curriculum. Can I use this to teach my children for the Independent Studies program?

No, any curriculum used for Independent Studies needs to be approved AUSD curriculum. Any additional resources you use for instruction is in addition to assigned instructional resources and assignments.

Can students move between in person and the independent studies program during the school year?

Yes. Every situation is unique. All students have the option of a full program in a traditional classroom setting at the time Independent Study is made available and should the student decide to transfer from Independent Study at any time, the option of a traditional classroom setting will be available. Please contact your site administrator if you feel you need a program change.

How much does attendance affect my student's continued enrollment in the Independent Studies Program?

For all students who are not generating attendance for more than 3 school days or 60% of the instructional days in a school week, or who are in violation of their written agreement, the Superintendent or designee will ensure that procedures for tiered reengagement are implemented.

How much does attendance affect the amount of money the district has to pay for teachers, supplies and important services?

The amount of money received from student attendance is more than half of all money received by our school district! Money from attendance pays for teachers and important district services such as custodians, school office staff, enrolling students, library, books and supplies, communication with parents, staff, and the community.

For example, if a student requests an Independent Study Master Agreement for 5 days and is absent for 5 days, but only completes 2 days of work, the district will receive funding only for the 2 days of completed work.

Students who succeed in Independent Studies:

- Have enough self-discipline and motivation to finish all assignments without anyone telling them to do so and/or have support at home to help coach them in this way
- Complete most, if not all, assignments
- Are willing to ask their teacher and/or parent for help
- Have the ability to read instructions and information from a teacher who is not present and/or available on a daily basis or has support at home to help coach them in this way
- Attend class with satisfactory attendance

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- Create a positive learning environment free from distractions.
- Teach, coach, and support your child every day.
- Attend weekly student-parent/guardian-teacher conferences in person or via online video conferencing.
- Help your child submit completed assignments on time (weekly).
- Communicate with the certificated teacher regularly via email, phone calls, and other messaging options.

- Properly assist the teacher to meet all the requirements of Independent Study as required by the Education Code.

The district implements a variety of technological platforms to facilitate Independent Study including but not limited to:

- Canvas
- Zoom
- Clever
- Teams
- IReady
- STAR Renaissance

I have a question about Study Contracts. Who should I contact?

Contact Yari Pantoja, District Specially Funded Program Clerk, at (661) 854-6500 or by email at ypantoja@arvin-do.com if you have any questions.

Common *MYTHS* about Independent Study:

- **The work assigned is very easy.** As mentioned above, you will receive the same amount and type of classwork as students in AUSD's in-person instruction.
- **You won't be tested on assignments.** Assessments help inform you, your parent/guardian and your teacher about what you learned and what you still need help with, so there will be assessments scheduled throughout your time on Independent Studies.
- **You will have lots of "free time" since you only attend school once a week.** You will have the same amount of time as other students to complete assignments. As a learning team, you, your parent/guardian, and teacher will work together to make sure you are supported and challenged.
- **You can meet with your teacher anytime you want and just "drop in" anytime you want.** In addition to the required weekly check-in meeting, you are encouraged to email or message your teacher as questions arise, however, your teacher will have other students to support and may not be immediately available. If you require more than an email response, you can make a request for an additional meeting time during the week.
- **You can work entirely at your own pace.** While you can work at your own pace throughout the week, you are expected to complete and submit assignments on a weekly basis.