



Tamiscal Independent Study Referral Form

Tamiscal High School 305 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA

Phone: (415) 945-3750 Fax: (415) 945-3794

Principal: Kim Stiffler kstiffler@tamdistrict.org

Counselor: Lynne Kennedy lkennedy@tamdistrict.org

Students who are successful at Tamiscal are strong independent learners. They are typically self-aware, organized, and communicate proactively.

The following criteria is used to help determine fit between student and school.

1. Student has the ability to self-manage and successfully navigate a less structured environment
2. Student is on track for diploma with minimal credit deficiencies, particularly in English and social studies
3. Counselor/IEP team/Admin support the referral

Student's Name: _____ Grade Level: _____ Referral Date: _____

Counselor: _____ Home School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone #: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Primary reason(s) for referral to full-time independent study:

chronic illness or physical health

serious extracurricular

flexible schedule

emotional health

personalized learning

social challenges

Please check all that apply:

no formal plan

active 504 plan

active general education plan

active IEP

in process of being evaluated for special education services

Intended concurrent classes at home school, COM, or other: _____

Consent to referral from referring school:

_____ (administrator) _____ (counselor)

_____ (parent) _____ (student)

_____ (IEP case manager or 504 coordinator if applicable)

PLEASE ATTACH A LETTER WRITTEN BY THE STUDENT THAT OUTLINES REASONS FOR WANTING TO ATTEND

We know the choice to change schools is difficult and tells us that you have unique educational needs. We'd love to hear why you want to be in an independent study program, and how Tamiscal may better serve you as a student. We are a small, supportive community and welcome all students who can successfully navigate independent learning, with support! Please share any information that will help us know and support you.

General Information

Tamiscal is a warm, welcoming, supportive community where students thrive in a small personalized learning environment. That said, independent study is not for all pupils as it requires basic academic skills, as well as a level of commitment, motivation, organizational skills, and self-direction to make the satisfactory educational progress as required per EC sections 51747(g)(4) and 51749.5(a)(8).

Please see the [attached flyer](#) for more information about Tamiscal's Program.

Here are some of the highlights of our Independent Study program:

- College-prep academic classes
- Small classes and personalized learning experiences
- Positive school culture and climate
- Caring teachers and staff
- Flexible schedule
- Extra support provided on campus

Tamiscal is a best fit for:

- Students who can work successfully on an independent basis in a less structured environment (5 hours/class/week required)
- Students who prefer a small school setting
- Students who have unique academic, social, extra-curricular, or medical needs
- Students who want a flexible schedule

Tamiscal students must take at least 4 classes with us ([sample schedule](#)) and can complete all of their graduation requirements on site. We offer a limited number of [elective offerings](#) and do not offer honors or AP courses. Some students co-enroll at their home school or at College of Marin. We accept students 4 times per year and the **process begins with enrollment in your home school and a referral from your counselor**. Students coming in as 9th graders or from private schools can reach out directly to Tamiscal's counselor.

Important steps to change schools and what to expect:

1. Meet with the school counselor at your home school to learn more about Tamiscal
2. Complete the referral form (this form) and get all signatures
3. Write your student letter
4. Submit the completed form to your school counselor. Include any formal GE, IEP or 504 plans, if relevant. Include transcripts if coming from a private school.
5. Tamiscal will schedule an intake meeting with parent(s), student, and Tamiscal's counselor and principal.
6. At the intake meeting, we will ask questions to learn more about the student, share information, and answer questions about the school. We will also talk through a draft schedule. This is not an interview.
7. If best fit is determined, we will discuss the onboarding process to include an orientation and school tour.

Independent study is only available as a voluntary option chosen by pupils and parents; pupils cannot be assigned to independent study. Students who cannot complete the required instructional minutes of 240 minutes/day; or 5 hours of work/class/week may be referred back to their home school.

Thank you for exploring Tamiscal Independent Study High School as an option for your family!