



MANTECA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

— MANTECA — LATHROP — FRENCH CAMP — WESTON RANCH —

2271 W. Louise Avenue
Manteca, CA 95337
(209) 825-3200
www.mantecausd.net

Department of Student Services

Short-Term Independent Study

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The Manteca Unified School District and the Manteca Educators Association developed our Short-Term Independent Study program. This program has been the result of collaborative efforts aimed at providing students with a flexible and supportive learning environment.

Purpose:

This memo establishes the goals and guidelines of our Short-Term Independent Study (STIS) program and informs our community about the legal framework surrounding it. This program aims to address potential learning loss for students facing unavoidable circumstances.

Goal:

To provide instruction that captures the learning loss students may experience due to situations beyond their control, enabling them to maintain academic progress while participating in Short-Term Independent Study.

Program Overview:

• Eligibility:

Short-term independent study is available for students participating for no more than 15 school days a year. Common reasons for participation include:

- Family emergencies
- Vacations
- College trips (grades 9-12 only)
- Extended funerals
- Citizenship applications
- Academic opportunities
- Weddings
- Athletic commitments

Legal Framework:

According to Education Code (EC) Section 46300(e)(1), 51747 (h) (2) (i), and EC Sections 51744–51749.6, districts can claim apportionment for students engaged in Short-Term independent study for three or more consecutive school days. Notably, for those participating for fewer than 15 cumulative days in a school year, local educational agencies (LEAs) are exempt from specific requirements such as tiered re-engagement strategies and daily live interaction.



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Program Availability:

- Short-Term Independent Study will be available to students with positive attendance, acceptable behavior, and good academic standing.
- Short-Term Independent Study will not be available to students during the initial fifteen (15) days of school or the final fifteen (15) days of school.
- Short-Term Independent Student will not be available to high school students during the last five (5) days of the first term and the first five (5) days of the beginning of the second term.

How to apply for Short-Term Independent Study:

- The parent or guardian is to schedule a meeting with an administrator to discuss the reason for the request and to review and sign the agreement.
- The parent or guardian must meet with an administrator at least ten (10) days before the intended first day of absence.

Teacher Involvement:

The student's classroom teacher typically serves as the supervising teacher, providing independent study assignments reflective of the coursework missed.

Assignment Submission:

Assignments must be submitted per the LEA's policies and outlined in the written agreement. The written agreement must detail the following:

- The maximum length of time for assignment completion (EC Section 51747(a))
- The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting assignments and reporting progress (EC Section 51747(g)(1))

Discipline:

- Short Term Independent Study should be reserved for educational purposes, not as a disciplinary measure. It's important to ensure students continue their learning without being penalized in ways that hinder their progress.

Internet Access

- If the student needs internet access, the parent should reach out to the administration, who will collaborate with the Information Technology Department to provide support.

Failure to adhere to the Short-Term Independent Study Contract:

Failure to fulfill assignments in the Short-Term Independent Study program will result in unexcused absences and may have serious consequences. Students in this situation risk being referred to the Student Attendance Review Board for truancy or being removed from their school. Additionally, they will be ineligible for future use of Short-Term Independent Study.

Revised 6/4/25



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Term Independent Study within the same year. It is crucial to prioritize attendance and academic responsibilities to avoid these outcomes.

Conclusion:

The Short-Term Independent Study program is designed to help students maintain their academic trajectory during absence. This ensures that students can continue their studies and stay on track, even when faced with challenges. It is essential to communicate the program's purpose, eligibility criteria, enrollment process, and available support resources to students and families. By highlighting the benefits, such as flexibility in learning and the opportunity to stay engaged with their education, we can foster understanding and encourage participation. Your cooperation in sharing this information is vital for the program's success and for helping our students thrive.

Different Types of Alternative Programs

- **Long-Term Independent Study:** The independent study program is an alternative educational initiative that caters to individual students' diverse learning needs and styles. This model allows students to fulfill their academic requirements outside of a traditional classroom setting, offering a tailored and flexible approach to learning. It empowers students to take charge of their education while accommodating their unique preferences and circumstances. Long-term participation in independent study is defined as a pupil's engagement in the program for 15 or more cumulative school days within a single school year.
- **Home and Hospital Instruction Program:** The Home and Hospital Instruction Program, as outlined in California Education Code Section 48206.3, is designed to support students who experience a temporary disability that renders attendance in regular day classes or alternative education programs either impossible or inadvisable.

District Webpage Information

[Independent Study - Manteca Unified School District \(mantecausd.net\)](http://www.mantecausd.net/independent-study)

Questions

Please contact Student Services, for further information regarding our Short-Term Independent Study Program at studentservices@musd.net