



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Independent Study Program

2026-2027 School Year

Information Session

March 3, 2026, 6:00pm



Meet Your ISP Team!

The ISP program is not a separate school; it is part of your child's high school campus.

High School/Dept:	Administrators:	Counselors:	Teachers - Instructional Support:	Teachers - Case Management (25-26) (26-27 TBD)
Malibu High:	Denise Johnson	Katie Dahm Makenna Samsel	Chris Cullen Brigette Leonard Nancy Levy Jill Matthews	Jill Matthews
Olympic:	Cynthia McGregory	Bailey Fronda		Nancy Levy
SAMOH	Jane Han	Bailey Fronda		Chris Cullen (9-11) Nancy Levy (12)
Educational Services:	Dr. Ashley Benjamin	Patrick Miller (TOSA)		Brigette Leonard (6-8)

Purpose of Today's Information Session:

Key Information About...

- Learning
- Support for Students
- Attendance Credit

Timeline and Information About...

- Application Window
- Enrollment Process
- Questions?

Student Learning / Instruction

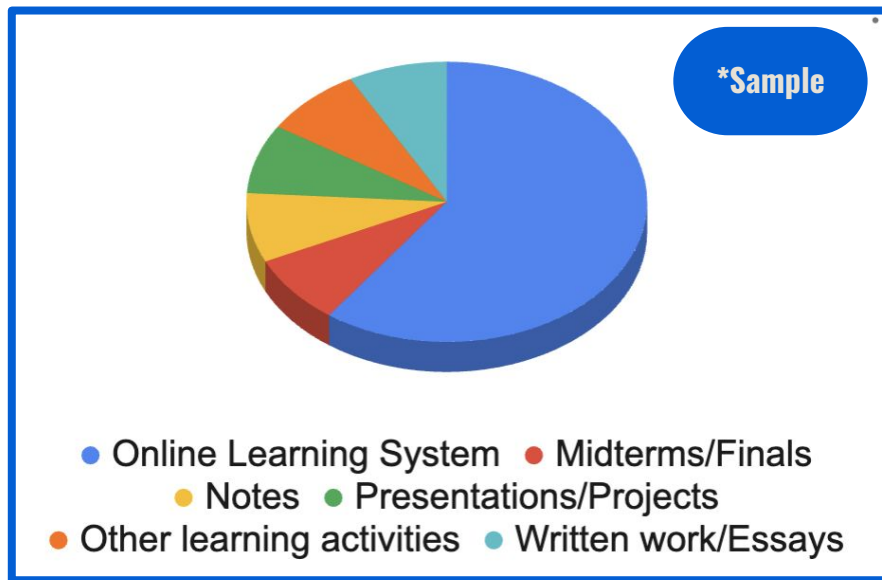
ISP is an optional, alternative instructional model for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Asynchronous Instruction (Unscheduled)	Synchronous Instruction (Scheduled) On Zoom /In Person
Subject (Modular Based Learning; Main Learning Platform)	Course Based Group Session
Apex (Modular Based Learning)	Study Hall Session
Google Classroom Assignments	1 on 1 Appointments
Notes	Morning Meeting / Community Building
Presentations/Projects	Field Trips / Book Talks
Extended Writing Tasks/Essays	Midterms / Finals (In-Person)



Student Learning / Instruction

The ISP program is designed to teach the knowledge and skills of SMMUSD's core curriculum and participating students are able to complete the district's adopted course of study within the normal time frame.



Combination of designated online learning platform and other assignments/ assessments

Individual lessons are self paced; assignments are due at the end of each week

Team of teachers available to support students with learning

Student Learning / Instruction

ISP courses and content is aligned to grade level standards at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction.

**Modular
Units on
Subject.com**

**Additional
Lessons
and Tasks**

**Chat with
tutors**
from
Subject.com

**AI Bot
Tutor**
from
Subject.com

Asynchronous (Unscheduled)

Approximately 4-5 Hours/Day

**Live
Instruction
w/ ISP
Teachers**
In Person/On
Zoom

**Custom
sessions**
based on
student input

Synchronous (Scheduled)

MINIMUM of 1 Hour/Week

**Morning
Meeting
Sessions**
with ISP
Teachers

**Virtual
Field Trips**
with California
State Park
Interpreters

**State &
Local
Assessments**

**Midterms
& Final
Exams**

**Synchronous (Scheduled)
and REQUIRED In-Person**

Student Support

Students participating in the ISP program are first, students enrolled at their home school with the same rights and privileges of other students in the in-person program.

Subject Tutors

Live Person
(6:00-6:00)

AI Bot (24 Hours)

Live Sessions

with SMMUSD ISP
Teachers

School Based Resources

Community Based Resources

Remain Enrolled at School Site

Activities, Clubs,
Events, Athletics



Student Support

Success in ISP requires motivation and a strong commitment on the part of the student and their parents/guardians. Sufficient organizational skills and academic preparation are required in order for students to work successfully in an independent manner.

How Do I Track Progress?:	Platform:	Frequency:
Daily Progress	Subject	Current Score
Weekly Progress	Direct Email From Subject	Weekly
Progress Reports	Direct Email from ISP Teachers	Every two weeks
Grade Reporting	Aeries Parent Portal	Each 6 Week Grading Period
Direct Communication/ Re-Engagement Strategies	Conferencing (Phone, Email, In Person)	As Needed

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School	ISP Teacher Meetings	ISP Teacher Meetings	SaMo Staff Meeting ISP Teacher Meetings	ISP Teacher Meetings	MHS Staff Meeting ISP Teacher Meetings
9:00 AM	9:00 AM Morning Meeting Zoom link	9:00 AM Morning Meeting Zoom link	In-person Santa Monica High School	In-person Malibu High School	9:00 AM Morning Meeting Zoom link
9:30 AM	9:30 AM Virtual Field Trip Redwoods, Earth Cycles, and Climate Change Zoom Link for Part 1	9:30 AM Physics Zoom link			9:30 AM Algebra 1 Zoom link
10:00 AM	 Zoom Link for Part 2	10:00 AM Algebra 1 Zoom link 10:00 AM English 11 Zoom Link			10:00 AM Chemistry Zoom link 10:00 AM Philosophy Zoom Link
10:30 AM	10:30 AM Pre-calculus Zoom link 10:30 AM English 9 Zoom Link	10:30 AM Algebra 1 Zoom link 10:30 AM English 10 Zoom Link			10:30 AM Algebra 1 Zoom link 10:30 AM Financial Literacy Zoom Link
11:00 AM	11:00 AM Psychology Zoom Link 11:00 AM Book Talk Zoom link	11:00 AM Biology Zoom link 11:00 AM Geometry Zoom link	Check in at the Michigan/7th Street Gate (with Student ID)	Check in at the MMS office with Student ID	11:00 AM English 12 Zoom Link 11:00 AM World History Zoom Link
11:30 AM	11:30 AM Algebra 2 Zoom link	11:30 AM Sociology Zoom Link			11:30 AM Health Zoom link
12:00 PM	Teacher lunch	Teacher Lunch			Teacher lunch
12:30 - 3:30 PM	ISP Team Meetings	12:30 PM Mindfulness with Ms. Cullen Zoom Link			12:30 PM AP Statistics Zoom link
		1:00 PM Government Zoom link			1:00 PM Pre-calculus Zoom link
		1:30 PM Algebra 2 Zoom link			1:30 PM Music Chat Zoom link
		2:30 PM US History Zoom link			2:30 PM Study Hall with Ms. Levy Zoom link



	Week 8	Week 7	GP 4	Week 6	Week 5
	DUE DATE 2/27/26	DUE DATE 2/20/26		Due Date 2/13/26	DUE DATE 2/6/26
MS. CULLEN	Do these week of 2/13-2/27	Do these week of 2/16-2/20		Do these week of 2/9-2/13	Do these week of 2/2-2/6
	(These assignments will be LOCKED on 3/13/26)	(These assignments will be LOCKED on 3/13/26)		(These assignments will be LOCKED on 2/20/26)	(These assignments will be LOCKED on 2/20/26)
ENGLISH 9	Topic 9.1	Chapter 8 Assessment		Topic 8.3	Topic 8.2 & Google Assignment
ENGLISH 10	Topic 6.4	Topic 6.3		Topic 6.2	Topic 6.1 & Google Assignment
ENGLISH 11	Google Assignment (No Subject)	Topic 7.3		Topic 7.2	Topic 7.1 & Google Assignment
ENGLISH 11 AP	Midterm in person	Topic 6.3		Topic 6.2	Topic 6.1 & Google Assignment
ENGLISH 12	Topic 7.3	Topic 7.2		Topic 7.1	Topic 6.1 & Google Assignment
College Writing	Topic 4.4	Topic 4.3		Topic 4.2	Topic 4.1 & Google Assignment



Attendance Credit

Students are expected to spend as much time on their schooling in the Independent Study Program as they would for in-person learning.

The main way that students earn attendance is by **completing assignments**

Each assignment is worth a set "time value"

+

Students also earn minutes by **attending "live sessions" with teachers**

Students are expected to attend two or more live sessions each week

=

Minutes from **Completing Assignments**

+

Minutes earned from **Attending "Live Sessions" with Teachers**

=

Total Number of Minutes

For every 240 minutes of time value earned, students earn one day of attendance



The “Hybrid” Option:

ISP students desiring a hybrid option are able to participate in up to two courses, in-person.

	In-Person Classes, On Ground	Virtual Classes, ISP
Traditional	6	0
Fully Virtual	0	6
Hybrid (1)	1	5
Hybrid (2)	2	4

- ISP students must spend a majority of their day in ISP
- Hybrid students' attendance in on-ground classes will be factored into their overall ISP attendance credit
- A student's schedule will be developed in consultation and collaboration with the site administrator and site counselor/advisor.



Application: Next Steps

All students who apply for enrollment in ISP are assessed for their potential to be successful.

1. Review the Program FAQ and Information in the Application Packet
2. Submit Application
 - a. Window: March 9, 2026 - March 27, 2026
 - b. Deadline: March 27, 2026
 - c. Email Completed Fillable PDF to ISPapplication@smmusd.org
3. Review the ISP Course of Study



Enrollment: Next Steps

Student's course selection will mirror course sequencing in the traditional setting at Samohi/MHS as closely as possible.

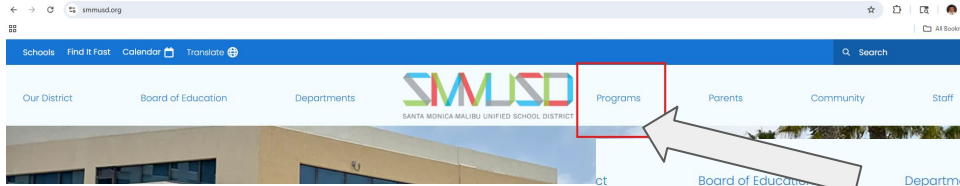
Once your student is APPROVED:

1. Check In With Counselor Regarding Course Selection
2. Attend Enrollment Session Zoom
 - a. **April 28, 2026, 6:00pm, via Zoom** (Link will be emailed)
3. Complete Written Agreement In Person, Signatures Required
 - a. Santa Monica High, Room E200: April 29, 2026, 4:00-6:00
 - b. Malibu High, Room A232: April 30, 2026, 1:00-3:00



Application: Next Steps

*The site administrator will review each application and determine if the student meets the necessary eligibility requirements and will benefit from participation in this alternative educational program. The school site will inform parents/guardians of the application approval/denial prior to **April 20, 2026**.*



Application: Next Steps

Applications will only be accepted up until the due date! Submit by email to ISPApplication@smmusd.org.

Board of Education

Departments



[Programs](#)

Parents

Community

Date: March 3, 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Via Zoom: <https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/87208482292>

Application Information:

[2026-2027](#)

[Handbook and Application - English](#)

[Handbook and Application - Spanish](#)

2026-2027 School Year Application Timeline:

Window Opens **March 9, 2026**, Closes: **March 27, 2026**

How to Submit Completed Application Forms:

Email completed fillable PDF application to ISPApplication@smmusd.org by the deadline, March 27, 2026

Note:

- Families should thoroughly review all information included in the Independent Study Application Packet for Prospective Parents prior to submitting.
- The Application Packet includes a program overview, description of the application



Questions?

**Thank you for your interest and for
joining us!**