

Your Child's Independent Study Lessons

Your child's teacher has assigned lessons through American Digital Education for Independent Study. This page explains what the program is, how it works, and why the district uses it.

The basics

4 hours

of material must be made up for each missed school day under Independent Study.

30 minutes

is what each assigned lesson counts for toward that requirement.

Same content

as the classroom: each lesson matches the state standard from the teacher's own pacing guide.

American Digital Education is a separate program, but the lessons are not busywork from somewhere else. When your child's teacher assigns a lesson, that lesson covers the same state standard the class is working on that day. Your child keeps up with the real day-to-day material, not a substitute for it.

There is one important difference from a worksheet packet or a textbook assignment: these lessons teach.

A worksheet cannot notice a wrong answer or explain anything. When your child gets a question wrong in one of these lessons, the lesson stops and reteaches that idea on the spot, before moving on.

What a lesson is like for your child

1. **The lesson teaches in small steps** and checks understanding constantly: 26 to 29 check-in questions per lesson, so your child stays engaged and no confusion slides by unnoticed.
2. **About half of those questions are answered out loud.** The lesson reads each question aloud while highlighting every word on screen. Seeing and hearing the words together matches how the brain naturally processes language, which especially helps developing readers.
3. **Your child answers in complete sentences.** The lesson provides a sentence starter that uses the vocabulary of the subject, and asks your child to give the answer and explain the reasoning behind it, not just pick a letter.
4. **Your child reviews the answer before submitting.** Decades of research show that students who reread their answer catch many of their own slips and correct them.
5. **Wrong answers get reteaching, not a red X.** If the answer is incorrect, the lesson explains the idea again in a new way and gives another chance, up to three tries. If your child simply mispronounced a word, the lesson pronounces it, breaks it into chunks, and practices it together before trying again.
6. **The teacher sees all of it.** Every answer, every retry, and every completed lesson goes straight to your child's teacher.

"If we double the side lengths of a cube, the new volume is _____ because _____."

A real sentence starter from a lesson. Your child fills in the answer and the reasoning, out loud.

Wrong answers are part of the design. If you hear the lesson re-explaining something, that is the program working as intended. It means a gap was caught and closed in the moment, instead of surfacing on a test weeks later.

Why the district chose this program

Not all screen time is the same. What matters is whether real learning science was built into the program before it ever reached a classroom. American Digital Education lessons are built and delivered using more than 80 research-backed teaching methods, including retrieval practice, spaced review, managing how much new information is presented at once, and correcting mistakes at the moment they happen. These are applied automatically in every lesson.

One example of what that does: in two classrooms over five days, students read questions aloud, answered using academic vocabulary, and justified their reasoning. 80 percent answered correctly, and accuracy improved as lessons progressed. For the answers students missed, the program delivered more than 65 hours of individual reteaching in that single week. No teacher has 65 spare hours in a week to reteach every miss one on one. This program does, for every student at once.

It is also worth saying what this program is not. It is not a chatbot. Your child cannot copy and paste, and the program never writes answers for them. Lessons are generated from a fixed set of instructional rules aligned to state standards and delivered through a full, structured teaching sequence. Every question is a genuine check of what your child understands. Your child does the thinking. The program does the noticing. The teacher sees everything.

Behind the program is a team with more than 60 combined years in the classroom, and 57 straight weeks of research with over a thousand teachers, principals, and superintendents across the country about what students actually need when they miss instruction. The answer was never worksheet packets. Packets fill time; they do not replace teaching. These lessons were built to replace the teaching a student misses, so your child returns to class caught up instead of behind.

What to expect at home

- Each lesson takes about 30 minutes. A missed day is typically covered by the set of lessons the teacher assigns for it.
- Your child will be speaking out loud to answer questions, so a reasonably quiet spot with a working microphone helps.
- Retries and re-explanations are normal and good. Three tries on a question is built in.
- You never need to grade or check anything. Completion and results flow to the teacher automatically.

Questions about your child's specific assignments, schedule, or Independent Study agreement? Your child's teacher is the right person to ask, and they can see everything your child has completed in the program.