



## YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS

July 26, 2021

**TO:** YPI Charter Schools  
Board of Directors

**FROM:** Yvette King-Berg  
Executive Director

**SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve Independent Study Policy for YPICS (Bert Corona Charter School, Bert Corona Charter High School, and Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School)**

### BACKGROUND

The [California Education Code \(EC\) Section 51747](#) requires that local educational agencies that claim apportionment for independent study must adopt and implement written specified policies relating to independent study. The required written policies must be developed as specified in the *California Education Code Section 51747 and California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11701*.

The legislation authorizing independent study was enacted in 1976, and originally was designed to serve child actors, aspiring Olympic athletes, and other students whose schedules precluded regular classroom attendance. Over the years, independent study has evolved to serve a wide range of students.

Independent study ([California Education Code \[EC\] sections 51745–51749.3](#)) is provided as an alternative instructional strategy, not an alternative curriculum. Independent study students work independently, according to a written agreement and under the general supervision of a credentialed teacher or teachers.

Assembly Bill (AB) 130, the Education Trailer Bill to the 2021-22 budget was signed on July 9, 2021. AB 130 presented significant changes to the operation of independent study programs. For the 2021-22 school year, charter schools may offer an independent study option for families who determine that in-person instruction would put the pupil's health at risk. In contrast, school districts are required to offer independent study.

### ANALYSIS

For the 2021-22 school year, there is no extension of Distance Learning. The only option charter schools have to claim ADA are in-person and Independent Study (IS). According to CDE guidance, charter schools must comply with all new requirements – including the requirement to adopt an IS Board Policy – by the first day of instruction for the 2021-22 school year. Charter schools have 30 days from the first day of instruction to obtain

signed IS written agreements. The new requirements are subject to annual audit and carry significant fiscal penalties for failure to comply. New regulations and audit guidance will be drafted later this year as they currently do not exist.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This Independent Study Board Policy has been reviewed by our attorneys. Although this Independent Study Board Policy may be revised based on additional input from staff, attorneys, and auditors, it is recommended that the Board of Directors approve this version. This will ensure YPICS maintains a Board-approved policy before the start of the 2021-22 school year that is in alignment with recent changes in the trailer bills.