



YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS

July 17, 2023

TO: YPI Charter Schools
Board of Directors

FROM: Yvette King-Berg
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve Independent Study Agreement for 2023-2024 school year

BACKGROUND

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.

Independent study can be used on a short-term or long-term basis.

ANALYSIS

Currently, there are no changes in the education omnibus budget trailer bill from FY2023 in regard to the implementation of Independent Studies. Under the guidelines of AB 181 (2022), YPI Charter Schools can provide a child with an Independent Study and claim ADA for the day if we receive notification from the parent prior to 9:30 a.m. This is a dramatic change in that previous years we were required to obtain parent notification by midnight the night before the absence. For the 2023-2024 school year, we can offer an Independent Study and claim ADA for the day as long as we are notified by 9:30 a.m. the same day for students that will be on an Independent Study for 14 Days or less.

Independent Study 14 Days or Less

Parent/Guardian can sign a written agreement within 10 days of program commencement. However, the parent/guardian must notify the school prior to 9:30 a.m. the day of the absence to complete an Independent Study and claim ADA for the day of the absence.

Independent Study 15 Days or More

Parent/Guardian must sign the written agreement prior to commencement for students that will be out 15 days or more consecutive days.

These changes were made by the state of California to enable students that were previously unable to receive an Independent Study during previous years because the school was notified the same day of the absence. This change in procedure is expected to increase the number of students eligible to participate in an Independent Study.

ADA Target Rate

The ADA Target of 95% may need to be adjusted to ensure student performance on student-level measures of student achievement and student engagement is not hindered by an Independent Study. The ED, COO, EAs, and Coordinators of Operations will work with staff and families across the YPI Charter schools to monitor progress toward the successful completion of an independent study. Our goal is to increase in-seat attendance over the completion of Independent Studies.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Independent Study Agreement for 2023-2024.

Attachment: Sample Independent Study Agreement
Notice of Public Hearing (posted on July 1, 2023)