

**HSHMC Independent Study Policy**

Pending Board Approval – 11/28/2022

This policy specifies conditions and practices related to HSHMC’s independent study programs, and that are aligned to Education Code sections 51744-51749.6, including 2022-23 updates. Charters are required to follow this EdCode, except in sections where charters are excluded. The Board recognizes that current HSHMC policies and practices are, and will continue to be, reviewed and updated, subject to new and pending legislation and regulation.

1. Independent Study is an option available to students as approved by the San Diego Unified School District in HSHMC’s current charter. In addition, Independent Study is currently being implemented consistent with the HSHMC board approved (9/10/2020) Continuity of Learning Plan, and in alignment with recent changes in EC that are effective commencing in the 2022-23 school year.
2. HSHMC’s Independent Study Program is an optional alternative instructional strategy for eligible students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting.
   1. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan to serve students whose health or other personal circumstances make classroom attendance difficult.
   2. As necessary to meet student needs, independent study may be offered on a full-time basis or on a part-time basis in conjunction with part- or full-time classroom study.
   3. Regarding pupils with exceptional needs – the pupil’s inability to work independently, need for adult support or related special education services shall not preclude the individualized education program team from determining that the pupil can receive a free appropriate education in independent study.
3. A student's participation in independent study shall be voluntary. Students participating in independent study shall have the right, at any time, to enter or return to the regular classroom mode of instruction. (Education Code 51747; 5 CCR 11700). Tiered reengagement strategies may be required for students not meeting current attendance requirements (EC 51747(d)), and in those situations shall also include local programs intended to address chronic absenteeism.
4. HSHMC’s Principal or designee shall ensure that a written master agreement and, as appropriate, a learning agreement for students participating in course-based independent study exist for each participating student as prescribed by current law. (Education Code 51747, 51749.5)