



Date: May 5, 2022
To: Board of Directors of Navigator Schools
From: Kevin Sved, CEO
Subject: Expiration of AB 130 Long-Term Independent Study

Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 130 into law on July 9, 2021. These long-term independent study requirements issued by the governor did not apply to charter schools, but Navigator provided this option as a component to serve students and families during a time of crisis. Thankfully, COVID-infection rates for staff and students have declined significantly since the peak of the pandemic and the height of the Omicron surge. Confidence in health and safety precautions continues to increase, along with a corresponding desire on the part of students, families, and staff to return to in-person instruction. The crisis has subsided, and its impact on Navigator will continue to fade as we approach the start of the new school year in August, 2022. With this in mind, the Directors and Chiefs of Navigator Schools seek board approval to discontinue the long-term independent study program that emerged as a voluntary response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

For the 2021–22 school year only, school districts and County Offices of Education were required to offer independent study as an educational option (Education Code [EC] Section 51745). Although charter schools were exempt from this requirement, Navigator determined that implementation of a long-term independent study program would support students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic-era requirements initiated by the governor for school districts and County Offices of Education will expire on June 30, 2022. Navigator leaders recommend that Navigator’s long-term independent study program end on this date.

As of May 5, 2022, there are thirty-one Navigator Schools students enrolled in long-term independent study. Per individual long-term independent study contracts, this enrollment will fall to zero by the end of the 2021-22 school year. Navigator will continue to provide short-term independent study (less than 15 days) for families when students are not able to come to school for illness, work-related travel, and other critical family needs.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Navigator Schools Board of Directors approve the discontinuance of the Navigator Schools long-term independent study program effective June 30, 2022.