

## **Lewis Center for Educational Research**

### **BP 6158: INSTRUCTION INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM**

**Adopted: September 8, 2014**

**Revised:**

The Governing Board authorizes Independent Study as an optional alternative instructional strategy for students in any school K-12 in the organization. Independent Study provides a means for students to achieve curriculum objectives and meet graduation requirements outside the regular classroom. For the purpose of this policy, the terms "student" and "pupil" are synonymous.

Independent Study is a continuously voluntary, educational alternative in which no student may be required to participate. Instruction may be provided only if the student is offered a classroom option that is always available.

Independent Study shall offer a means of individualizing an educational learning plan for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. The organization shall provide and ensure Independent Study students the same access to existing services and resources as are available to all other students in the school in which the Independent Study students are enrolled.

The President/CEO or designee shall determine that the prospective Independent Study student understands the organization's requirements for Independent Study and is prepared to meet them. The President/CEO or designee shall guarantee that each participating student has an executed written Independent Study Agreement as prescribed by law. The Independent Study strategy requires a written agreement with all of the required components, agreed to by the student, parent/guardian/ caregiver, certificated employee, and all other persons who have direct assistance to the student. Individual Independent Study agreements including any Subsidiary Contract must be consistent with the organization's adopted course of study.

To help each student succeed in Independent Study, the Board establishes the maximum length of time, by grade level and type of program, which may elapse between the time an Independent Study assignment is made and the date by which the student must submit the assigned work.

The President/CEO or designee may extend the maximum length of an assignment when circumstances justify a longer time to a period not to exceed eight weeks pursuant to a written request.

When any student fails to complete three consecutive assignments in one attendance period, the President/CEO or designee shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in Independent Study. A written report shall be kept in the student's folder and/or permanent file.

The President/CEO or designee shall establish administrative regulations to implement Independent Study in accordance with the law.