



## Notification of Educational Options for the 2021-22 School Year

July 30, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

State and federal laws require us to inform you of your option to enroll your student in an Independent Study program instead of in-person instruction for students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian for the 2021-22 school year.

Independent Study is an educational program that provides instruction based on the state-adopted content standards by certificated teachers. It is individualized learning that is an alternative to in-person instruction where the student and teacher may be in different locations. Resources, such as Chromebooks, and hot spots will be provided to students for adequate participation in this educational program and to complete assigned work.

Independent Study has specific requirements for instructional time that may include both synchronous and asynchronous learning. These expectations will be outlined in a written learning agreement. Planned opportunities for synchronous instructional time for Independent Study programs will vary by grade, as described below:

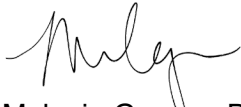
Instructional Time	Description	Frequency
Synchronous	Classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communications and involving live, two-way communication between the teacher and student. Synchronous instruction shall be provided by the teacher(s) of record for that student.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily for grades K-3</li><li>• Weekly for grades 4-8</li><li>• Weekly for grades 9-12</li></ul>
Live Interaction	Interaction between the student and school classified or certificated staff, and may include peers, provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness including but not limited to: wellness checks, progress monitoring, provision of services and instruction. This interaction may take place in person or in the form of internet or telephonic communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily for grades 4-8</li></ul>
Asynchronous	Forms of instruction that do not occur in the same place or at the same time. The term is most commonly applied to various forms of digital and online learning in which students learn from instruction—such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own—that are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All other instructional time for grades K-12</li></ul>

	not being delivered in person or in real time. Yet asynchronous learning may also encompass a wide variety of instructional interactions, including email exchanges between teachers, online discussion boards, and course-management systems that organize instructional materials and correspondence, among many other possible variations.	
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You have the right to request a student-parent-educator conference meeting before enrollment in an Independent Study program. You also have the right to enroll, disenroll, and/or re-enroll in either in-person instruction or Independent Study, at any time during the 2021-22 school year, should you and/or your child's circumstances change.

Parents or guardians may select an instructional program that best suits their child's needs. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Services office at (209) 468-4847.

Sincerely,



Melanie Greene, Division Director  
County Operated Schools & Programs