



1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The governing board authorizes independent study as an optional alternative instructional strategy by which students in grades K - 8 may reach curriculum objectives and fulfill graduation requirements. Independent study shall offer a means of individualizing the educational plan for students whose needs may temporarily be met best through study outside of the regular classroom setting.
- 1.2 Nord Country School's independent study option shall be substantially equivalent in quality and quantity to classroom instruction, thus enabling students enrolled in independent study to complete the schools' adopted course of study within the customary timeframe. Students in independent study shall have access to the same services and resources as is available to other students in the school.

2.0 Responsibilities

- 2.1 The Principal or designee shall determine that the prospective independent study student understands and is prepared to meet the schools' requirements for independent study.
- 2.2 Parents/guardians should recognize that independent study at the elementary level must emphasize a commitment primarily from the parent/guardian and secondarily from the student.
- 2.3 Independent study may only be offered to students who can achieve in this program as well or better than they would in the regular classroom.
- 2.4 The Principal or designee shall ensure that a written independent study agreement, as prescribed by law, exists for each participating student. Each agreement shall contain the following:
 - 2.4.1 The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a pupil's assignments and for reporting his or her progress.
 - 2.4.2 The objectives and methods of study for the pupil's work, and the methods utilized to evaluate that work.
 - 2.4.3 The specific resources, including materials and personnel that will be made available to the pupil
 - 2.4.4 A statement of the policies adopted regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a pupil's assigned work, and the number of missed assignments allowed prior to an evaluation of whether or not the pupil should be allowed to continue in independent study.
 - 2.4.5 The duration of the independent study agreement, recognizing that no independent study agreement shall be valid for any period longer than one year.

- 2.4.6 The inclusion of a statement in each independent study agreement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate.
- 2.4.7 Each written agreement shall be signed, prior to the commencement of independent study, by the pupil, the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or care giver, if the pupil is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and all persons who have direct responsibility for providing assistance to the pupil.

3.0 Timeframe for Submission of Work/ Missed Assignments Prior to Evaluation

- 3.1 To foster each student's success in independent study, the Board establishes that the following maximum lengths of time which may elapse between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the student must complete and submit the assigned work to the supervising certificated employee shall be as follows:

For students in grades K – 8: 14 school days

- 3.2 When circumstances justify a longer period of time, the Principal or designee may extend the maximum length of an assignment to a period not to exceed eight weeks, pursuant to a written request with justification.
- 3.3 If a student fails to complete one independent study assignment during the trimester, the Principal or designee shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in independent study. Evaluation findings shall be kept in the student's mandatory interim pupil record.

4.0 Adoption and Review

- 4.1 Originally Adopted: 10/08/2014
- 4.2 Most Recent Review: 01/27/2021