

INDEPENDENT STUDY

One goal of the Passaic Board of Education is the development of self-directed learners. A modern school program should teach students to be sufficiently independent of school and teacher so that they can and will carry on successfully their own learning enterprises after their formal schooling has ended.

Independent study is a plan of instruction which deliberately aims to guide learners in their own work. It is a separate phase of instruction tailor-made for the individual student and guided by the teacher in order to build on the student's abilities as a self-sufficient learner. Under independent study the teacher's role shifts from a director of learning to a resource for the learner.

Independent study may take any of several forms, including, but not limited to:

1. A substitute for organized classroom-based instruction utilizing digital learning platforms;
2. A self-directed program of study facilitated by school staff;
3. Programmed instruction outside of programs identified in the programs of study;
4. A supplementary learning program;
5. Individualized instruction.

Objectives

1. Broaden and deepen curriculum content, thereby overcoming the usual limitations of the regular school programs;
2. Provide students an opportunity to make decisions (to select from a series of options) about their activities in school;
3. Place students in a more active role in the learning process;
4. Provide learning experiences tailored to the interests, talents, and needs of individual students;
5. Enable students to develop confidence in their ability to learn, to think imaginatively, and to explore ideas;
6. Develop in students the ability to comprehend, apply, analyze and synthesize information;
7. Develop in students the ability to use interdisciplinary and critical thinking skills;

INDEPENDENT STUDY (continued)

8. Provide students an opportunity to expand responsibility by developing and following a plan of study;
9. Foster in students a continuing interest in learning.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the proper administration of independent studies.

First Reading: September 26, 2016
Second Reading: November 3, 2016
Adopted: November 3, 2016

Legal References: N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 Curriculum and instruction

Possible

Cross References: *5113 Absences and excuses
*5120 Assessment of individual needs
*5127 Commencement activities
6000 Concepts and roles in instruction
*6010 Goals and objectives
*6122 Articulation
*6140 Curriculum adoption
*6142 Subject fields
*6142.2 English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural
*6142.6 Basic skills
*6145 Extracurricular activities
*6147 Standards of proficiency
*6154 Homework/makeup work
*6171.4 Special education

*Indicates that the policy is in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.