

The Governing Board authorizes independent study athletics (ISA) as an optional, alternative strategy in highly specialized circumstances for students who participate in demanding, regular, out-of-school, criteria-specific physical activity.

The Superintendent or designee shall approve ISA for an individual student only upon determining that the student is prepared to meet the district's requirements for ISA.

The maximum duration of an ISA option shall be 15 school days per year.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written ISA, as prescribed by law, exists for each participating student. (Education Code 51747)

Eligibility for Independent Study Athletics

Parents/guardians of students who are interested in ISA should contact the principal/designee. Approval for participation shall be based on the following criteria:

1. The activity in which the student competes/participates must be an extension of an existing component of the California physical education standards.
2. The activity must be conducted under the supervision of a credentialed instructor within the District.
3. The activity must consist of instruction that meets or exceeds 400 minutes every 10 school days. (Education Code 51222)
4. The activity must represent a continuation/extension of the student's past record of involvement and dedication in the sport, as evidenced by the number of years the student has been involved in the training and the individual achievement level outside of school that has been attained by the student.
5. ISA is only offered at the middle school as a yearlong program. Students must meet ISA requirements to qualify for the program. Students must remain in the ISA program for the entire year.

Written Agreements and Conditions

A written ISA agreement shall be executed for each student participating in the program (Education Code 51747). When a student is approved for ISA, their participation in athletic competitions will not result in unexcused absences, as long as they meet all Independent Study requirements and complete assigned work within the designated time frame. All assignments must be completed within three school days from the date they were assigned, or as specified in the written ISA agreement. If more than three assignments are missed in a row, an evaluation will be conducted to determine whether it is in the best interest of the student to remain in the ISA program.

To request an ISA, the student shall submit a written application to the principal or designated school official. The following information shall be included in the application:

1. A statement for the out-of-school instructor which cites the instructor's qualifications or credentials and the official endorsement of the instructor's program and/or training facility.
2. A statement from the instructor which outlines the nature of the planned out-of-school instruction and specifies the time commitment that will be expected of the student.
3. A statement signed by the parent/guardian, holding the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District harmless from the responsibility/liability for any accident or injury to the student resulting from the out-of-school instruction.
4. Evidence from school records that the student demonstrates progress towards standards in academic content, habits of learning and positive character and citizenship.

Satisfactory Educational Progress

Satisfactory educational progress in the ISA program shall be determined based on the following factors:

1. The student's achievement and engagement in the ISA program.
2. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence the student is working on assignments.
3. The instructor supervising the student will be responsible for recording the minutes per day and days per week the student has spent completing each assigned activity. The activity log will be available for review by the certificated teacher supervising the student's ISA program.
4. Learning required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher.
5. Progressing toward successful completion of the ISA course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

The ISA program will be aligned with grade level standards that is substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. At all times during the period of the ISA agreement, the student must demonstrate overall adequate progress towards standards in academic content, habits of learning and positive character and citizenship, and the student must meet all requirements for participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, such as those outlined in Administrative Regulation 6145.

Non-Compliance with Conditions of Independent Study Athletics

Should the physical education teacher overseeing a student's ISA program deem that the requirements of the agreement have not been met, the permission to participate in the program will be withdrawn.

Physical Fitness Test for California

The State Board of Education has designated Fitnessgram as the state's required physical fitness test for students enrolled in grades five and seven. SB 601 requires that students score in the healthy fitness zone in five of six areas or better to obtain a passing score on this assessment. Areas measured by the test include aerobic capacity, body composition, abdominal strength, trunk extension, upper body strength and flexibility. Students who participate in ISA in grades seven must take the Fitnessgram test and earn a passing score to continue in the program the following school year. (Education Code 60800)

Visitations by School Personnel

In order to validate the information contained in the application as well as the caliber of the outside instruction, school personnel reserve the right to visit the training site during the period of the ISA agreement.