

Harvest Ridge Cooperative Charter Independent Study Board Policy



Harvest Ridge Cooperative Charter (“Harvest Ridge” or “Charter School”) may offer independent study to meet the educational needs of pupils enrolled in the Charter School. Independent study is an alternative education designed to teach the knowledge and skills of the core curriculum. Harvest Ridge shall provide appropriate existing services and resources to enable pupils to complete their independent study successfully. The following written policies have been adopted by the Harvest Ridge Board of Directors for implementation at Harvest Ridge:

1. For pupils in all grade levels offered by Harvest Ridge, the maximum length of time that may elapse between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the pupil must complete the assigned work shall be twenty (20) school days.
2. In accordance with Education Code Section 51747 and the Charter School’s Board policy on independent study, after 10% of missed assignments in a learning period are missed, an evaluation is held to determine whether it is in the best interest of the student to remain in independent study. If it is determined that it is not in the student’s best interest to remain in independent study, the Charter School may involuntarily remove the student after the Charter School follows the requirements of the Missed Assignment Policy and only after providing notice and an opportunity for a parent, guardian, educational rights holder to request a hearing prior to any involuntary removal as forth herein. Students who are involuntarily removed for truancy shall be given a rehabilitation plan and shall be subject to the readmission procedures set forth in the charter.
3. A current written agreement shall be maintained on file for each independent study pupil, including but not limited to, all of the following:
 - ◆ The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a pupil's assignments and for reporting his or her progress.
 - ◆ The objectives and methods of study for the pupil's work, and the methods utilized to evaluate that work.
 - ◆ The specific resources, including materials and personnel, that will be made available to the pupil.
 - ◆ A statement of the policies adopted herein 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.
 - ◆ The duration of the independent study agreement, including beginning and ending dates for the pupil's participation in independent study under the agreement. No independent study agreement shall be valid for any period longer than one school year.

- ◆ A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the pupil upon completion.
 - ◆ 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. In the case of a pupil who is referred or assigned to any school, class or program pursuant to Education Code Section 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the pupil through independent study only if the pupil is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.
 - ◆ 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. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who has met the requirements of Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 6550) of the Family Code.
4. Harvest Ridge shall comply with the Education Code Sections 51745 through 51749.3 and the provisions of the Charter School's Act and the State Board of Education regulations adopted there under.
 5. The Executive Director shall establish regulations to implement these policies in accordance with the law.