



**July 13, 2021**

Dear Farmersville Unified School District Family,

The 2021-2022 school year is rapidly approaching and we want to provide you with important updates regarding school reopening. As you are aware, the district is preparing for students to return to full-time classroom instruction. The district is taking the necessary precautions to ensure all students have access to a safe school and full-time instruction.

**The California Department of Public Health released updated 2021-2022 school reopening guidance for in-person classroom instruction on July 12, 2021.**

- All students and adults in K12 schools are required to wear face masks indoors for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Students will not be required to wear masks outdoors as long they continue to physical distance from others.
- Wearing masks promote health and safety and in-person learning by reducing the need to physical distance.
- Additional safety measures include (please refer to FUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan on website): hand sanitation stations, improved air ventilation systems, cleaning and disinfecting schools, desk shields for all classrooms, water refilling stations (bring container), COVID-19 vaccinations and testing.

**California requires that all K-12 school districts offer a (virtual) Independent Study program educational option for students for the 2021-2022 school year. Independent Study program is provided for students whose parent or guardian determines that in-person instruction would put the student's health at risk.**

Parents have the right to a parent conference to discuss the Independent Study program. Each family must decide the best educational option for their student. However, the educational research on learning is clear that the best educational option for students is in-person classroom instruction.

For parents who are interested in signing up their student for Independent Study educational option, please **complete the online FUSD Concurrent Independent Study form by July 30, 2021.** A parent conference is required with the school's administrator upon parent's signature. The form can be found at ([https://farmersvilleunified.formstack.com/forms/fusd\\_independent\\_study\\_agreement](https://farmersvilleunified.formstack.com/forms/fusd_independent_study_agreement)) and located on the district website. Chromebook computers for Independent Study students only will be distributed at your student's school July 29-July 30. Additional information will be provided on the district webpage.

We are committed to keeping you informed about our actions and any changes in guidance for K-12 public schools. Please refer to the updates on our district webpage or download the Parent Square App to receive additional district information.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Paul Sevillano**

Dr. Paul Sevillano, Superintendent



571 East Citrus, Farmersville, CA 93223  
Telephone (559) 592-2010 • Fax (559) 592-2203  
**Paul Sevillano, Ed.D., Superintendent**

13 de Julio de 2021

Estimada familia del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Farmersville,

El año escolar 2021-2022 se acerca rápidamente y queremos brindarle actualizaciones importantes sobre la reapertura de la escuela. Como saben, el distrito se está preparando para que los estudiantes regresen a la instrucción en el salón de clases de tiempo completo. El distrito está tomando las precauciones necesarias para garantizar que todos los estudiantes tengan acceso a una escuela segura y a una instrucción de tiempo completo.

**El Departamento de Salud Pública de California publicó una guía actualizada de reapertura escolar 2021-2022 para la instrucción en persona el 12 de julio de 2021.**

- Todos los estudiantes y adultos en las escuelas K-12 deben usar mascarillas en el interior de los edificios durante el año escolar 2021-2022.
- No se requerirá que los estudiantes usen mascarillas faciales cuando estén al aire libre mientras mantengan la distancia física.
- El uso de máscaras promueve la salud y la seguridad y el aprendizaje en persona al reducir la necesidad de distancia física.
- Las medidas de seguridad adicionales incluyen (consulte el Plan de Seguridad COVID-19 del FUSD en el sitio web): estaciones de desinfección de manos, sistemas mejorados de ventilación de aire, limpieza y desinfección de las escuelas, protectores de escritorio para todas las aulas, estaciones de llenado de agua (traer contenedor), vacunas y pruebas de COVID-19.

**California requiere que todos los distritos escolares K-12 ofrezcan una opción educativa (virtual) del programa de estudio independiente para los estudiantes para el año escolar 2021-2022. Se proporciona un programa de estudio independiente para los estudiantes cuyos padres o tutores determinan que la instrucción en persona pondría en riesgo la salud del estudiante.** Cada familia debe decidir la mejor opción educativa para su estudiante. Sin embargo, la investigación educativa sobre el aprendizaje es clara en que la mejor opción educativa para los estudiantes es la instrucción presencial en el aula.

Para los padres que estén interesados en inscribir a su estudiante en la opción educativa de Estudio Independiente, por favor **complete el formulario de Estudio Independiente Concurrente del FUSD en línea antes del 30 de julio de 2021.** El formulario se puede encontrar en el enlace adjunto ([https://FarmersvilleUnified.formstack.com/forms/fusd\\_independent\\_study\\_agreement](https://FarmersvilleUnified.formstack.com/forms/fusd_independent_study_agreement)) ubicado en el sitio de internet del distrito. Las computadoras Chromebook para estudiantes de Estudio Independiente solo se distribuirán en la escuela de su estudiante del 29 de julio al 30 de julio. Se proporcionará información adicional en la página de internet del distrito.

Estamos comprometidos a mantenerle informado sobre nuestras acciones y cualquier cambio en la orientación para las escuelas públicas K-12. Consulte las actualizaciones en la página de internet de nuestro distrito o descargue la aplicación ParentSquare para recibir información adicional del distrito.

Atentamente,

*Dr. Paul Sevillano*

Dr. Paul Sevillano, Superintendente



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

**TONY THURMOND**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1430 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5901 • 916-319-0800 • WWW.CDE.CA.GOV

July 15, 2021

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators:

## **Changes to Independent Study Requirements**

Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 130 into law on July 9, 2021. This bill makes changes to independent study (IS). Some of the changes apply to all local educational agencies (LEAs), and some apply only to school districts and county offices of education (COEs). Although this communication is not inclusive of all of the changes to IS, it highlights several of the more pressing new elements for the 2021–22 school year that LEAs need to be aware of before IS instruction begins. These include IS offering requirements, a provision for waivers of the offering requirements, as well as required parent notification, pupil-parent-educator conferences, and additions to board policies and written agreements. In the coming weeks the California Department of Education (CDE) will issue additional guidance in the form of frequently asked questions and webinars about the new IS requirements.

### **Independent Study Offering and Waiver Requirements**

For the 2021–22 school year only, school districts and COEs are required to offer IS as an educational option (*Education Code [EC] Section 51745*). This requirement does not apply to charter schools.

School districts may choose to contract with a COE or establish an interdistrict transfer agreement with another school district to meet the requirement of offering IS for the 2021–22 school year. If the district demonstrates that the requirement creates an “unreasonable fiscal burden,” and entering into an interdistrict transfer agreement or contract is not a viable option, the requirement to offer IS can be waived for a school district by the COE, and for a COE or school district in a single district county by the CDE.

In addition, AB 130 adds *EC Section 46393* which requires all LEAs to include a plan for offering IS to pupils affected by school closures, along with the affidavit completed in submitting a Request for Allowance of Attendance Due to Emergency Conditions, Form J-13A. This requirement applies to all requests due to events that occur after September 1, 2021, and is not limited to the 2021–22 school year.

## Parent Notification

In order to communicate the educational options for families and their pupils in the 2021–22 school year, AB 130 has a requirement that school districts and COEs notify parents and guardians of their options to enroll their pupil in in-person instruction or IS during the 2021–22 school year (*EC* Section 51747). This notice shall include written information on the LEA’s internet website, including, but not limited to, the right to request a pupil-parent-educator conference meeting prior to enrollment, pupil rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling, and reenrolling in IS, and the synchronous and asynchronous instructional time that a pupil will have access to as part of IS.

## Pupil-Parent-Educator Conferences

Prior to signing the IS written agreement for IS, and at a pupil or parent or guardian’s request, all LEAs offering IS must hold a pupil-parent-educator conference or school meeting via phone, videoconference, or in-person (*EC* Section 51747). At a minimum this conference or meeting must involve all of the people who sign the pupil’s written agreement for IS. During the conference or school meeting, attendees may ask questions about the educational options, curriculum offerings, and nonacademic supports available to the pupil.

## Updated Board Policies and Written Agreements

In order to generate apportionment for IS, all LEAs must have adopted and implemented board policies and written agreements that meet specific criteria (*EC* Section 51747). AB 130 added new elements to be included in board policies and written agreements.

In addition to requirements in effect prior to the enactment of AB 130, **board policies** need to be updated to also include the following:

- Satisfactory progress as an added means to evaluate continued IS participation and placement.
- Provision of standards aligned content in IS that is substantially equivalent to the quality and intellectual challenge of in-person instruction.
- For high schools, a provision for access to all courses offered by the LEA for graduation and approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the A–G admissions criteria.
- Procedures for tiered reengagement strategies.

- A plan to provide opportunities for synchronous instruction for all grade levels, and live interaction for grades four through eight.
- A plan to transition pupils whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from IS expeditiously, and not later than five instructional days.

**Written agreements** must be updated to also include the following:

- The manner, time, frequency, and place for communicating with a pupil's parent or guardian regarding academic progress.
- The inclusion of confirming or providing access to all pupils to the connectivity and devices adequate for participation and completion of work in the specific resources made available to the pupil.
- The level of satisfactory educational progress that would trigger an evaluation of whether or not the pupil should be allowed to continue in IS.
- A detailed statement of academic and other supports provided to address the needs of pupils not performing at grade level, or needed support in other areas such as English learners, individuals with exceptional needs in order to be consistent with the pupil's individualized education program or 504 plan, pupils in foster care, pupils experiencing homelessness, and pupils requiring mental health supports.
- A provision for electronic signatures if a LEA chooses to make use of electronic signatures for written agreements.

For the 2021–22 school year only, written agreements must be signed no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction. However, it is important to note that all other IS requirements must be met upon commencement of instruction. For any other school year, written agreements must be signed prior to commencement of IS.

The CDE understands that these changes will require time and planning on the part of LEAs. This initial communication with the most significant and time sensitive tasks is being provided to help LEAs with this work. As noted earlier, the CDE in the coming weeks will continue to issue guidance to help LEAs with understanding these new requirements.

LEAs interested in receiving regular email updates pertaining to IS may join the CDE IS listserv located at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/eo/is/indstudylserv.asp>.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact the following CDE staff accordingly.

July 15, 2021

Page 4

- For questions regarding the implementation of an IS Program, please contact [independentstudy@cde.ca.gov](mailto:independentstudy@cde.ca.gov).
- For questions regarding meeting attendance accounting, apportionment, and instructional time requirements in implementing the IS provisions of AB 130, please contact [attendanceaccounting@cde.ca.gov](mailto:attendanceaccounting@cde.ca.gov).

Your hard work and efforts on behalf of pupils and families are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Borrego*

Lisa Borrego  
Division Director  
Family Engagement Division

Wendi McCaskill  
Associate Director  
School Fiscal Services Division

LB/WM:eg