

August 4, 2021

Dear Students, Families, and Employees:

As we continue our planning for the 2021-22 school year, we wanted to share some essential information with you. Burbank Unified School District is returning to in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year with health and safety protocols in place as directed by our guiding agencies. The California Department of Education (CDE) has authorized school districts to return to full in-person instruction for the upcoming school year, with an alternative option for independent study.

For this school year, the 2021-22 Enacted Budget, Assembly Bill (AB) 130, allows for only two instructional models: in-person learning and the voluntary alternative model of independent study. The State is no longer allowing a distance learning option that was offered last year.

We are excited to fully reopen on Monday, August 16th for in-person school!

For families interested in independent study, State law, [AB 130](#), gives guidance to all school districts on independent study in the 2021-22 school year. This option provides a voluntary alternative instructional model for students whose health may be at risk as determined by the student's legal guardian by participating in in-person instruction. Independent study is a voluntary program in which students follow a curriculum from home with parental support.

Required By AB 130	Provided by BUSD 2021-22
<p>TK - 3rd Grade — Daily Synchronous Instruction* for all students throughout the school year</p> <p>4th - 5th Grades — Weekly Synchronous Instruction* and Daily Live Interaction** for all students throughout the school year</p>	<p>Sample Elementary Independent Study Schedule M-F</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TK-3rd Grade -- Daily Synchronous Instruction via internet from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm• 4th - 5th Grades -- Weekly Synchronous Instruction via internet from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm• TK-3rd Grade -- No Daily Live Interaction (Check-ins) via the internet• 4th - 5th Grades -- Daily Live Interaction (Check-ins) via the internet• Social Emotional Learning to include community building with an emphasis on study and organizational skills, etc. Students receive weekly meetings with their assigned Independent Study Teacher via the internet to help facilitate student success in the Independent Study program.

	<p>General Daily Schedule TK - K</p> <p>8:30-12:00 Student Independent Study Work</p> <p>12:00-12:45 Lunch</p> <p>3:00-4:00 Live Synchronous Instruction Daily</p> <p>General Daily Schedule Grades 1-3</p> <p>8:30-12:00 Student Independent Study Work</p> <p>12:00-12:45 Lunch</p> <p>1:00-2:25 Student Independent Study Work</p> <p>3:00-4:00 Live Synchronous Instruction Daily</p> <p>General Daily Schedule Grades 4-5</p> <p>8:30-12:15 Student Independent Study Work</p> <p>12:15-1:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00-2:30 Student Independent Study Work</p> <p>3:00-4:00 Live Synchronous Instruction Weekly</p>
<p>Grade 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Synchronous Instruction* for each core class (English, Math, Social Studies, Science, and PE) • Elective courses may be accessed weekly via the internet • Daily Live Interaction** for all students throughout the school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students access the core class (English, Math, Social Studies, Science, and PE) via the internet once per week • Students access the elective class via the internet once per week • Students access Live Interaction (check-ins) daily via the internet • Social Emotional Learning to include community building with an emphasis on study and organizational skills, etc. Students receive weekly meetings with their assigned Independent Study Teacher via the internet to help facilitate student success in the Independent Study program.

<p>7th- 8th Grades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least weekly Synchronous Instruction* • Daily Live Interaction** for all students throughout the school year 	<p>Grades 7 and 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students enroll in the Independent Learning Academy (see below) • APEX is the primary learning platform • Social Emotional Learning to include community building with an emphasis on study and organizational skills, etc. Students receive weekly meetings with their assigned Independent Study Teacher via the internet to help facilitate student success in the Independent Study program.
<p>9th-12th Grades —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least weekly Synchronous Instruction* for all students throughout the school year. • Live Interaction** as needed for all students throughout the school year 	<p>Grades 9 through 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students enroll in the Independent Learning Academy (see below) • APEX is the primary learning platform • Social Emotional Learning to include community building with an emphasis on study and organizational skills, etc. Students receive weekly meetings with their assigned Independent Study Teacher via the internet to help facilitate student success in the Independent Study program.

**Synchronous instruction means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered virtually via the internet involving live, two-way communication between the teacher and student. Synchronous instruction is provided by the teacher of record for that student.*

***Live interaction means interaction between the student and district classified or certificated staff and may include peers, provided to maintain school connectedness, including but not limited to: wellness checks, progress monitoring, provision of services, and instruction. This interaction will take place via the internet.*

What are the expectations of an Independent Study student?

- Daily engagement with curriculum and school work
- Distraction-free learning environment
- Assignments completed and submitted on time
- High standards of academic integrity
- Daily monitoring of school platforms including email, Aeries, Google Classroom, APEX, and textbooks
- Organization with daily and long-term assignments through the use of a list or agenda
- Communication with teachers and staff to seek clarification and support
- Respectful communication and collaboration with peers
- Engage in remote learning with the same commitment as in the “traditional” setting

What are the expectations of an Independent Study parent?

- Active monitoring of student’s courses including assignments, grades, and attendance
- Consistent communication with teachers and staff
- Support of the student’s distraction-free learning environment
- Establishment of a structured daily routine for completing work
- Participation in meetings with program staff, if requested
- Ensure student’s daily monitoring of all school platforms
- Engaged in communication with the teachers and school staff
- Maintain an active role in my student’s education and assist as needed
- Provide student opportunities for physical activity and healthy social interactions

Elementary Independent Study

Contact the elementary school office and the office staff will take your contact information and your student’s name. The school will follow up with an informational meeting.

Grade 6 Independent Study

Contact the middle school office and the office staff will take your contact information and your student’s name. The school will follow up with an informational meeting.

Grades 7-12 Independent Study

To enroll your Grade 7-12 student in BUSD’s Independent Study Program, please complete the Independent Study Enrollment Form:

English

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQndDLx4mgLnIfFDSsJsoqz3GXQTPqYyc6_xyTCfuoxvq8Fw/formResponse

Armenian:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xzScyOnYZ5JGrWzussyljyNw_ndxgRDH1YltTW2q1_Y/edit?ts=610b1276

Spanish

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NXIKae7aWguqq7LkxF6PkfmOwx1o4iLbptGsvDqaGMQ/edit?ts=610b0dac>

Please complete no later than Wednesday, August 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Please see our **Independent Study Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** document for additional information:

English

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VNE5JYGRCRnk5mMoQLG2I5QkHDP5pYe5GKreiUZTxHg/edit#heading=h.q1zg9o34vux3>

If you have any questions regarding the Grades 7-12 Independent Study, you may also reach out to Ms. Wendy Heard, Director, Independent Learning Academy at wendyheard@burbankusd.org with any further questions.

Health and Safety

Currently, the Los Angeles Department of Public Health is requiring all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks indoors. All sites have MERV13 filters, which is a high-grade filter system.

Good hygiene is something we always want to reinforce with students. Please encourage and remind students to wash their hands regularly and to use hand sanitizer. Testing is not required by LACDPH for school districts. If an employee or student tests positive, quarantine is not required per LACDPH if a vaccinated individual does not have symptoms.

We look forward to returning to in-person learning and providing independent study when school begins for the 2021-22 school year on August 16, 2021.

Sincerely,

Matt Hill, Ed.D.

Superintendent