

FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

INDEPENDENT STUDY

5350

- 5350.1 Purpose
The District recognizes the value of individualized instruction in the educational program.
- 5350.2 Definition
The following approaches have been defined in an effort to meet the individual academic needs of our students to the fullest extent.
- 5350.2a Individual instructional strategies prescribed by an exceptional student's written plan (Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan.
- 5350.2b Accelerated Learning opportunities allow a student to work at a faster pace than the rest of his/her class. The student works on planned course material established by regular curricular offerings in the classroom independent of his/her peers.
- 5350.2c Independent Study permits a qualified student the opportunity to work alone or in small groups under the guidance of a faculty member. This program's purpose is to complement the established curricular offerings by promoting a somewhat broader and more individual education. This approach encourages the motivated student to pursue in some depth a special interest that is also a valid educational endeavor. This policy is written to address the Independent Study option.
- 5350.3 Independent Study courses may be offered for planned course credit if they are based on a written plan which consists of at least all of the following:
- 5350.3a A list of expected learning standards.
- 5350.3b Content, related materials, activities and estimated time needed to achieve the learning standards.
- 5350.3c Relationship of course outcomes to state standards.
- 5350.3d Procedures for assessment of standards.

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INDEPENDENT STUDY (Contd)

5350

- 5350.4 No more than one Independent Study course may be taken in any one semester.
- 5350.5 Students shall be admitted to courses of Independent Study who have demonstrated:
- 5350.5a academic proficiency (GPA greater than 83%),
 - 5350.5b maturity in judgment,
 - 5350.5c a strong motivation to learn, and
 - 5350.5d self reliance.
- 5350.6 Students may prepare Independent Study proposals with the agreement of a cooperating faculty member. An Academic Contract must be completed by the student and teacher, and approved by the student's parent(s), guidance counselor and high school principal prior to the beginning of the semester.
- 5350.7 At the beginning of each semester, the High School Principal will present a report to the Board summarizing the Independent Study courses scheduled during that semester. The summary shall include the name of the student, the teacher, course title, credits awarded and the expected learning outcomes.

Revised October 11, 2004