

Independent Directed Study

Policy 6241

02/06/97

Revision Date: March 1, 2018

The Board of Education believes that independent study will provide opportunities for greater flexibility in the education system. This can be done by permitting students to pursue studies beyond those usually taught in the school course. This could take the form of extending the curriculum at a higher level, addressing parts of the curriculum that have not been taught, conducting an in-depth study of an aspect of the curriculum, or doing more focused activities relating to parts of the curriculum.

The purpose of independent-directed study is to permit students to initiate their own course of learning at the Grade 11 or 12 level under the supervision of a teacher. The Independent-Directed Study Policy is not a student entitlement. It is an enabling policy designed to permit students an opportunity to pursue further studies. Independent-directed study must be based on either the learning outcomes of a provincial curriculum or the learning outcomes of a locally developed curriculum (Ministerial Order 302/04).

Guidelines

1. *Requirements and Eligibility for Independent-Directed Studies*
 - 1.1 Principals will implement procedures and approve all independent studies. Teachers will decide whether they wish to arrange independent-directed study with a student.
 - 1.2 In order to participate in independent-directed study, students should demonstrate an ability to work independently with minimal direction.
 - 1.3 Students are not required to be enrolled in, or have completed, a specific course in order to be considered for the opportunity to participate in an independent-directed study related to that course.
 - 1.4 Requests and approval to participate in an independent-directed study should be linked to the student's goals as articulated in the Student Learning Plan. Students should be advised how independent-directed study will fit into their course of studies and graduation requirements.
 - 1.5 The maximum value for an independent directed study is two credits. There is no limit to the number of independent-directed studies a student may take towards satisfying graduation requirements.

2. *Procedures for Independent-Directed Study*

- 2.1 An independent-directed study must be principally based on the learning outcomes from one curriculum, either provincially approved or locally developed.
- 2.2 An independent-directed study must be assigned a value of one or two credits.
- 2.3 Students should be involved in the design, planning, and evaluation of their work. With the support of an educator, student applicants should develop a plan for completing the independent-directed study. This plan should become part of the Student Learning Plan and include:
 - a process for ongoing facilitation and assessment of student progress;
 - criteria for determining successful completion of the independent-directed study; and
 - an agreed upon credit value for the proposed independent-directed study.

3. *Assessing and Evaluating Independent-Directed Study*

- 3.1 When a student has completed an independent-directed study, the work will be assessed and evaluated by the teacher involved, in consultation with the school Principal (or designate) and the student as appropriate. The results will be reported in the subsequent reporting period using a letter grade and a percentage, and will show the associated credit(s).
- 3.2 The Ministry will determine the appropriate codes. The independent-directed study code will indicate the course on which it is based.
- 3.3 Students will receive provincial course credit when the independent-directed study is based on provincial curriculum; students will receive local course credit when the independent-directed study is based on locally developed curriculum.
- 3.4 An independent-directed study based on curriculum at the Grade 11 level will be recorded as Grade 11 credit; such study at the Grade 12 level will be recorded as a Grade 12 credit.
- 3.5 All credits earned through independent-directed study will count towards Selected Studies for graduation.