

Paradise Unified School District – INDEPENDENT STUDY LEARNING AGREEMENT

Paradise eLearning Academy (PELA) and Short-Term Independent Study

Student Name:		Student ID #:	Grade:
Address:		Birthdate:	Age:
City:		Zip Code:	
Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Name:			Phone Number:
Email Address:			Alt. Phone Number:
District-Issued Device: ☐ YES ☐ NO		District-Issued Hotspot: ☐ YES ☐ NO	
School of Enrollment/Program Placement: ☐ PELA ☐ Site Name _____			
Duration of Agreement: (Not to exceed one school year)		☐ <15 ☐ 16+ (cumulative total days)	Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____
Has TRANSPORTATION Been Contacted?		Yes ☐ No ☐	
Does the student have a 504_____ or an IEP_____? (Pg 2)			

Independent Study is a voluntary educational option that allows eligible students to receive instruction outside the traditional classroom setting in accordance with California Education Code. This Learning Agreement establishes the terms and conditions under which the student will participate in Independent Study during the period identified above.

Student-Parent-Educator Conference: Before signing this Agreement, the parent/guardian may request a student-parent-educator conference to discuss educational options, curriculum offerings, and available academic and nonacademic supports before making a decision regarding Independent Study.

☐ Student-Parent-Educator Conference Requested and Conducted on: _____ ☐ Conference Not Requested

Subsidiary Agreement: The specific objectives, methods of study, methods of evaluation, manner of reporting academic progress and for communicating with parents, guardians, or caregivers about a student's academic progress, and resources for each assignment covered by this agreement will be described in the student Assignment and Work Record Forms, which are part of this agreement, and any subsidiary agreements are also part of this agreement.

Objectives: We understand that the student is to complete the subjects/courses listed below, and that subject/course objectives reflect the curriculum adopted by the district's governing board and are consistent with district standards, as outlined in the district's subject/course descriptions.

Methods of Study: Examples of methods of study for the student will include, but are not limited to: Independent Reading, Textbook Activities, Problem Solving, Study Projects, Drill & Practice, Computerized Curriculum, Internet Research, Library Research.

Methods of Evaluation: Acceptable methods of evaluation include, but are not limited to: Teacher Made Tests, Student Conferences, Chapter/Unit Tests, Work Samples, Observations, State Standards Testing, Quizzes, Projects and Activities, Written and Oral Assignments. The teacher will evaluate submitted work and will assign attendance credit and academic credit.

Resources: Participating students will be offered access to resources, including, but not limited to, standards-aligned instructional materials, appropriately credentialed teachers, academic and nonacademic staff, and equipment and internet connectivity to enable them to adequately participate in their program and complete assigned work. Students who are not performing at grade level and/or need other supports will be offered access to them, as determined by the general supervising teacher.

Revised 8/2026

Fall Term				Spring Term			
Subject/ Course	Teacher	Credits Attempted	Grade/ Credits Earned	Subject/ Course	Teacher	Credits Attempted	Grade/ Credits Earned

Additional Classes: If the student satisfactorily completes all of the above subjects/courses before the ending date of the agreement, a supplement agreement adding one or more courses/subjects may be completed and attached to the original agreement. The supplement agreement shall meet all signature requirements as the original agreement.

Satisfactory Educational Progress: We understand that a student's satisfactory educational progress will be evaluated using the following measures:

- A student's achievement and engagement in the program, as indicated by their performance on applicable student-level measures of student achievement and engagement pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) of subdivision (d) of Education Code Section 52060, i.e., Local Control and Accountability Plan.
- A student's completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the student is working on assignments.
- A student's learning required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher.
- A student's progress toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

Pursuant to law, students participating in Independent Study greater than 15 days in a school year will be offered the opportunity to engage in both Live Interaction and Synchronous Instruction according to the following guidelines:

- Transitional Kindergarten to grade 3 - daily synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.
- Grades 4 to 8 - both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.
- Grades 9 to 12 - at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.

Assignment Reporting: We understand that students are required to report to their teacher(s) as scheduled for submitting assignments and reporting on progress:

Manner of Reporting (may include any or all): ☐ In-Person ☐ Online ☐ Small Group **Frequency:** ☐ Weekly ☐ Once
Day: ST: Day Returns to Class/LT: Weekly Appt. **Time:** During School Hours **Place:** ☐ School Office ☐ School Classroom

Academic Progress: We understand that parents/guardians/caregivers are to receive communication by the teacher regarding the student's academic progress as follows:

Manner of Reporting (may include any or all): ☐ In-Person ☐ Telephone ☐ Electronic ☐ Written Communication
Frequency: Weekly **Time:** During School Hours **Place:** ☐ PELA ☐ Individual Site Name _____

Assignments: We understand that according to district policy for grades TK through 12, the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the date the assignment is due is ten school days. After three missed assignments or appointments, or if the student is not making satisfactory educational progress as determined by the general supervising teacher using the measures prescribed in accordance with paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Education Code Section 51747, an evaluation will be made to determine whether Independent Study is an appropriate strategy for this student. If the student falls below the level of satisfactory educational progress as determined by the general supervising teacher, an evaluation will be conducted to determine whether the student should remain in Independent Study or return to the regular school program.

Voluntary Statement: We understand that Independent Study is an optional educational alternative that students voluntarily select, including students covered under California Education Code sections 48915 and 48917. All students who choose Independent Study must be offered the alternative of classroom instruction, and they must have the continuing option of returning to the classroom.

Quality and Quantity; Rights and Privileges; Resources and Services: The Independent Study option is to be substantially equivalent to grade level standards in quality, quantity, and intellectual challenge to in-person instruction. For high schools, this shall include access to all courses offered by Paradise Unified School District for graduation and approved A-G admissions criteria. Students who choose to engage in Independent Study are to have equality of rights and privileges with the same access to existing services and resources as students in the regular school program.

Notification regarding expulsion or suspended expulsion: Instruction may be provided for a student that has been expelled EC 48915 (expulsion) or 48917 (suspended expulsion) through independent study only if the student has the continuous choice of classroom instruction EC 51747(c)(7); CCR 11700(d)(2)(B)

Additional Supports for Special Populations: Academic and other supports will be provided to address the needs of students who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English Learners, individuals with exceptional needs in order to be consistent with the student's individualized education program (**IEP**) or **504 Plan**, students in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and students requiring mental health supports. Additional supports include, but is not limited, to the following:

Need/Concern	N/A	Support/Resources Examples – <u>Add Specifics</u>	Responsible Person(s)
Academic	☐	Tutoring, targeted Interventions, additional supports as determined by teacher	
English Language Development	☐	Specialized instruction in ELD, additional supports and/or materials as needed	
Exceptional Needs/504 Plan	☐	Specialized academic instruction/equipment	
Foster/Homeless	☐	Outreach for resources, tutoring, targeted interventions, additional supports as needed	
Social-Emotional/Mental Health	☐	Counseling, social emotional learning programs, additional supports as needed	
Other	☐	Computer devices, connectivity support	

School Responsibilities:

- The major objective for the duration of this agreement is to enable the student to learn and keep current with grade level requirements and studies for the period covered by this agreement.
- This agreement is to enable the student to successfully reach the objectives and complete the assignments identified in the Assignment and Work Record Form(s) that will be a part of this agreement. With the support of the parent/guardian/caregiver, the student will submit assignments on or before the due date specified in the Agreement and/or Assignment and Work Record Form.
- According to district policy for Independent Study in grades TK-12, no more than ten school days may elapse between when an assignment is made by the supervising teacher and the date it is due, unless an exception is made in accordance with district policy.
- The Paradise School District will provide the instructional materials or access to materials and other necessary items and resources as specified for each assignment.
- The student will complete, during the term of this agreement, the coursework listed on the Assignment and Work Record Form. All course work will be consistent with the Paradise School District adopted curriculum.
- Students will be provided with academic intervention if performing below grade-level and social emotional and wellness support if that is deemed necessary.
- Independent Study is a voluntary optional alternative in which no student may be required to participate; a classroom option will always be available to the student.
- The student's work will be evaluated by the method specified in this agreement and the Assignment and Work Record Form.

Student Responsibilities:

I understand that:

- Independent Study is a form of education that I have voluntarily chosen.
- I am entitled to access to materials/textbooks and learning materials, including access to connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the education program and complete assigned work.
- I have the same rights as other students in my grade at my school of enrollment.
- If I do not complete assignments given, my incomplete work will result in an evaluation to determine how much credit I will receive for the work completed.

I agree to:

- Complete my assigned work by its due date, as explained by my teacher or teachers and described in my written assignments.

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Responsibilities:

I understand that Independent Study is an optional educational alternative for my child that I have voluntarily selected. I agree to the conditions listed under "Student." I also understand that:

- Learning objectives are consistent with and evaluated in the same manner that they would be if my child were attending during the period of Independent Study.
- I am responsible for supervising my child while my child is completing the assigned work and for ensuring the submission of all completed assignments necessary for evaluation by dates due.
- I am liable for the cost of replacement or repair for willfully damaged books, materials and other school property checked out to my child.

Signatures and Dates:

We have read this agreement, including the Assignment and Work Record Form(s) and hereby agree to all the conditions set forth within. We further understand that on the date the contract ends the parent/guardian/caregiver and student must go to the school office or teacher before returning to the regular classroom. All assigned work will be evaluated and given credit after it is turned in. No work will be accepted after the agreed upon due date.

ALL SHORT-TERM INDEPENDENT STUDY WORK IS DUE THE DAY THE STUDENT RETURNS TO SCHOOL.

Student:	Date:
Parent/Guardian/Caregiver:	Date:
Supervising Teacher:	Date:
Special Education Teacher:	Date:
Other Responsible Person(s):	Date:
	Date:

For students participating in **Paradise eLearning's Independent Study Program**, or otherwise scheduled for more than 15 school days, this agreement shall be signed **prior to the first day of instruction** by the student, parent/guardian/caregiver of the student, the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the general supervision over independent study and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable. (EC 51747)

For students participating in **Short-Term Independent Study** scheduled for less than 16 school days, this agreement shall be **signed during the school year in which the independent study program takes place** by the student, parent/guardian/caregiver of the student, the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the general supervision over independent study and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the student, as applicable. It is the intent of the Legislature that parent/guardian/caregiver be provided the agreement at or before the beginning of the school year. (EC 51747)

Number of total days attendance credit given: _____	_____ Days of Month ____ / _____ Days of Month ____
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Supervising Teacher's Evaluation/Certificate:

My signature below indicates that I, the assigned supervising teacher, have personally evaluated the student's work, OR that I have reviewed the evaluations made by other certificated teachers.

Supervising Teacher:	Date:
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