



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

Remote Independent Study for the 2021-22 School Year

August 2021



Alignment to Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Student Achievement

- Every student will be prepared for high school and 21st Century citizenship.

Goal 5: Resource Stewardship

- Students, staff and community members will have access to various resources, such as technology, facilities, furniture, equipment, etc., in a fiscally responsible manner, to fulfill the mission of MVWSD.

Guiding Principles for Reopening - Principle 3:

- Create high-quality, equitable learning environments for all students



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Goals

Goals - April 2021

- Provide a high quality educational program to all students
- Provide options for families
 - In person
 - Distance
- Staff our programs effectively
- Provide consistent programming throughout the year
- Remain fiscally prudent



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Considerations

Considerations

- Maintain staffing ratios consistent with CBA
 - TK-3: 24:1
 - 4-5: 30:1
 - 6-8: 180 contacts/day or 33 in a class period
- Eliminate combination classes
 - Particularly important due to learning gap concerns
- Maintain consistency with Public Health protocols and cohort guidance
- Maintain fiscal prudence



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Enrollment Projections

Spring 2021 Enrollment Confirmation:

An enrollment confirmation survey was sent to all families before Spring Break.

The survey requested that families confirm their enrollment in

- the Distance Learning School
- In-person at the neighborhood/choice school

As of noon April 23, requested enrollment was as follows:

Distance Learning School: 149

In-person at neighborhood/choice school: 2996

(Assuming in-person for families who don't reply)

This accounts for 3,145 of our current 4,707 students enrolled.

Spring 2021 Enrollment Confirmation:

Distance Learning Enrollment by Grade (as of 4/22/2021)

K	13
1	14
2	20
3	15
4	12
5	10
6	14
7	21
8	26

Math Pathways for Middle School

Pathway	Responses for DLS	SED	ELs	EOs	SWD
Math 6.1	17	13	4	6	1
Math 6.2	3	x	x	x	x
Math 7.0	14	7	1	5	4
Math 7.1	6	2	1	4	1
Math 7.2	5	x	x	1	1
Total	45	22	6	16	7

Pathway	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Filipino	Hispanic/Latino	White	Other Pacific Islander	Total
Math 6.1	x	x	1	x	12	4	x	17
Math 6.2	x	3	x	x	x	x	x	3
Math 7.0	1	x	x	2	8	2	1	14
Math 7.1	x	1	x	x	2	3	x	6
Math 7.2	x	5	x	x	x	x	x	5
Total	1	9	1	2	22	9	1	45

Data relevant as of 4/22/2021



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Exploring DLS Options

Distance Learning School Proposal - April 2021

This school will provide a learning experience specifically designed to meet the needs of students learning entirely from home for the full school year. Enrollment in the Distance Learning School includes:

- A student issued Chromebook for instructional use
- Live instruction from teachers 5 days/week
- The same core curriculum used at neighborhood schools (ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science)
- RTI (Response to Instruction)
- Physical Education classes via Zoom
- Art and Music classes through CSMA (elementary)
- Elective classes (middle school)
- ELD and Special Education services (if applicable)
- Other programs or activities as implemented by the school

Parameters

Below were the parameters discussed regarding 2021-22 options

- No simultaneous instruction (hybrid)
- Eliminate combination classes
 - Though there was discussion that this is preferred over hybrid instruction
- Students enrolled in choice programs who request distance learning will be enrolled in the Distance Learning School, but will retain their spot in the choice school for the upcoming year
- One opportunity, mid-year, for students to move from Distance Learning to In-Person instruction
- Students in the Distance Learning School will need to have similar instructional options to those in neighborhood schools (core classes, RTI, Electives, etc)

Considerations- Spring 2021

- When the Distance Learning School was initially proposed, there were 2,246 students who had indicated a desire to continue in distance learning in the 2021-22 school year.
- Enrollment at that level permits many programmatic options.
- 82 of the 149 families said they want DLS until children are vaccinated. This would reduce DLS enrollment by 55% mid year

Considerations - Spring 2021

- With an updated TK-8 enrollment of 149, programmatic options are limited
 - Combination classes would have been necessary
 - Multiple middle school math classes would not be able to be offered
 - All students in the grade would need to be enrolled in the same math pathway
 - If students had an option to return to in-person learning mid-year and enrollment declined even further, multiple grade levels would need to be combined to staff a class

Considerations - Spring 2021

- In April, Governor Newsom stated that schools should plan to conduct full-time, in-person instruction in the fall, in compliance with Cal/OSHA emergency temporary standards and public health guidelines.

Board Decision - April 2021

Based on many factors including, but not limited to the following:

- State guidance
- Limited enrollment
- Staffing challenges
- Financial prudence

the Board of Trustees voted not to open a Distance Learning / Virtual school for 2021-22



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New State Guidance

Assembly Bill 130

AB 130 was approved by the Governor on July 9, 2021.

The trailer bill covered a variety of topics including new requirements for independent study

AB130 Independent Study Requirements

Short term Independent Study - adjusted to be available from 3-15 days (Previously 5-15 days)

Long term independent study (more than 15 days) - added for the 21-22 school year with additional requirements

- AB130 requires all districts to offer an Independent Study program to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian, for the 2021-22 school year.

AB130 Independent Study Requirements

Long term independent study (more than 15 days) - added for the 21-22 school year with additional requirements

- Families will need to be notified of the Remote Independent Study offerings
- Participation in Remote Independent Study must be voluntary
- Documentation of participation and engagement in each day of Remote Independent Study is required
- Remote Independent Study agreements must be signed
- Students who wish to return to in person learning must be re-enrolled within 5 days

Re-Enrollment

- Enrollment in neighborhood schools fluctuates throughout the year
 - Students wishing to return to in person learning may be placed back at their neighborhood school if there is still space available
 - If there is no longer space, the student will be re-enrolled at another school with space available at the student's grade level
- Enrollment at Choice Schools does not fluctuate
 - Students returning could be placed back into the choice school or a site with available space

AB130 Independent Study Requirements

- **Grades TK-3:** Will include daily synchronous time for all students
- **Grades 4-8:** Will include both daily live & weekly synchronous
- **Content must be aligned** to grade level standards
- Instruction must be provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge **substantially equivalent** to in-person instruction
- ***Special Needs Students*** cannot participate in independent study unless the IEP specifically allows for such participation

AB130 Independent Study Requirements

Attendance for students in Remote Independent Study must be maintained in a similar manner as last year

- Daily attendance monitoring
- Engagement and assignment completion
 - Must maintain written or computer-based evidence of student engagement, listing all assignments, assessments, and associated grades
- Re-Engagement plans will be required for students absent for 60% of the school days
- Board Policy for Independent Study must be updated and approved prior to the first day of school

AB130 Independent Study Requirements

LEA must maintain written or computer-based evidence of pupil engagement

- **Must report in CALPADS** the number of students participating in I.S. for 15 or more schooldays (new field will be added starting in 2021-22)
- **Must report to CCEE on a biweekly basis the following:**
 - # of students who have opted into independent study
 - How the LEA is meeting the daily or weekly synchronous requirement for students
 - Actions the LEA is taking to encourage the transition of students participating in I.S. to in-person instruction



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Exploring Remote Independent Study Options

Options that were considered

- Option 1: Apply for a waiver
- Option 2: Run our own MVWSD Remote Independent Study Program
- Option 3: Contract with Santa Clara County Office of Education to provide Remote Independent Study Programming
- Option 4: Enter into Interdistrict Transfer agreements with another district offering I.S.
- Option 5: Contract with an outside company to provide programming

Remote Independent Study Options

Option 1: Apply for a waiver from the Santa Clara County Office of Education

A waiver may be requested if:

1. Offering independent study would create an unreasonable fiscal burden on the school district due to low numbers of pupils participating or other extenuating circumstances and
2. The governing board of the school district does not have the option to enter into an interdistrict transfer agreement with another school district or to contract with a county office of education to provide an I.S. option

Remote Independent Study Options

Option 2: Run our own MVWSD Remote Independent Study Program

- Per discussions in Spring, staffing would be a challenge
 - Few teacher applicants - may not be able to hire staff
- Program offerings (math pathways, electives, STEAM, etc) would be limited by the number of students enrolling
- Not financially feasible

Remote Independent Study Options

Option 3: Contract with Santa Clara County Office of Education to provide Independent Study Programming

- The County Office does not have a K-5 program
- There is limited space in the current 6-8 program at the county
- Costly

Remote Independent Study Options

Option 4: Enter into Interdistrict Transfer agreements with another district offering Independent Study

- Significant cost
- Students would have to disenroll from our district and re-enroll to return

Remote Independent Study Options

Option 5: Contract with an outside company to provide programming

- Contracting with an online company:
 - More financially feasible than transfers
 - Programs are established - no reinvention of material
 - Can offer similar grade level program offerings
 - Does not impact our in person staffing numbers
 - Programs are data rich (attendance, engagement, assignment completion, etc)



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Recommendation

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Option 5

- Contracting with Edgenuity
 - Online Independent Study program for students
 - Teachers provided through Edgenuity
 - Workbooks provided for elementary students
 - Middle School curriculum is fully online
 - Progress monitoring data available
 - Attendance, engagement, assignments and progress

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends Option 5

- Contracting with Edgenuity
 - Can enroll students in courses similar to in-person classes
 - 8 courses for middle school, including core and electives
 - Cost:
 - Staff training fee \$2500
 - \$1600 per student per semester (elementary)
 - \$2000 per student per semester (middle)



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Planning

Planning for Remote Independent Study

- Provide information session to interested families
- Meet with families to register for I.S., review, and sign master agreements
- Provide devices to all students enrolling in I.S.
- Provide necessary materials
- Train staff member to monitor attendance and engagement data and support re-engagement strategies as needed



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Guidance

Guidance from Board of Trustees

- Does the Board have an interest in maintaining enrollment spots at choice schools for I.S. students to return this year or next?
 - If so, we would freeze enrollment at the choice schools



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Next Steps

Next Steps

- Tonight, we ask the Board to approve the AB130 Remote Independent Study Board Policy and AR as presented
 - Approved BP and AR are required prior to the first instructional day
- Information session about Independent Study is scheduled for Friday, August 6 at 1:30
 - The session will be recorded
 - After attending the information session, I.S. enrollment will begin

Independent Study Enrollment Process

- Interested students and families should
 - Complete the Remote Independent Study request form
 - attend a Virtual Remote Independent Study Program information session
- Students and Families wishing to enroll in Remote Independent Study will complete an enrollment form and schedule a meeting to review and sign the Independent Study Master Agreement
 - Students must maintain residency within the MVWSD boundaries to be enrolled in the Remote Independent Study program