

Mountain View Whisman School District Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)

Short-Term Independent Study Program Contracts

Independent Study is not considered excused and is not considered unexcused; it is considered Independent Study. It is an attendance category in and of itself. In PowerSchool, as in State Attendance Accounting, it has its own code:

I = Complete Independent Study

N = Not complete Independent Study

SARB letters cannot be generated for these codes, even if the Independent Study Contract is NOT complete.

Independent Study Contracts are a minimum of 5 consecutive school days and a maximum of 15 consecutive school days. They are granted at the discretion and prerogative of the principal. Parents must put the request into the school secretary directly (not the teacher) at least one week in advance.

Some examples why a principal may not grant an Independent Study Contract:

Student is below grade-level;

Student did not complete the last contract; Student has poor attendance.

If a student is not granted an Independent Study Contract and the family still decides to have the student be absent during that time, those absences will be considered unexcused and a truancy letter will be generated.

Another Example: Principal approves an Independent Study Contract for a student who is planning to take a family trip. They request 20 consecutive school days, but our policy only says maximum of 15



consecutive school days. So you can do the Contract for the first 15 consecutive school days, but the last 5 days will be unexcused. The last five days absent will be considered unexcused and will generate a truancy letter.

If the absence is of any great length of time, disenrollment will be strongly considered.