

SAN MARCOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD POLICY

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

---

INDEPENDENT STUDY, PHYSICAL EDUCATION

6158.1

Page 1 of 2

---

The goal of Independent Study Physical Education (I.S.P.E.) is to provide a flexible educational program of an individualized nature for students who have attained a verifiable ranking and competitive history within an individual sport/physical activity.

While our primary recommendation is that all students participate in the District physical education program, I.S.P.E. is a program designed to assist athletes with their training schedules by allowing the student to take their Physical Education class at their training facility, under the direct supervision of their coach. It provides an alternative instructional strategy by which students may reach curricular objectives and fulfill graduation requirements.

I.S.P.E. must be a significantly different program than the district Physical Education program and involve an activity in which the applicant competes at a state, regional, or national level. Documentation of competition and/or performances at the Regional (Northern, Central, or Southern California), State, or National level and ranking are required of participants as specified for each activity accepted.

I.S.P.E. will be considered for the following individual athletic activities: Classical Ballet/Competitive Dance, Diving, Equestrian, Fencing, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Skating, Swim, Surf, Tennis. The superintendent or designee may consider other individual sports/activities that students participate in at an advanced pre-Olympic/pre-professional or Olympic/professional level as evidenced by a national ranking according to a nationally recognized and verifiable ranking organization.

Student participation on national, regional, district or community athletic sports teams will not be granted an I.S.P.E. contract.

The I.S.P.E. course must be part of the student's regular bell schedule, typically period 1 or period 6. I.S.P.E. may not be an additional period on the student's 6 period day. I.S.P.E. students must abide by closed campus practices at their sites.

The I.S.P.E. program must include a training and weekly practice schedule (minimum of 10 hours per week for middle school and 15 hours per week for high school) that demonstrates that the student is a serious participant.

Students must participate in and receive at least a passing score on the CA Physical Fitness Test in 7th grade to be eligible to participate in the I.S.P.E. program and in 9th grade to continue to participate in the I.S.P.E. program. I.S.P.E. eligibility begins in grade seven.

Independent Study, Physical Education (I.S.P.E.) entails a commitment by both parents/guardians and the student. The Superintendent or designee shall determine that the prospective student understands and is prepared to meet the District's requirements for Independent Study in Physical Education. Independent Study may be offered only to students who can achieve in this program.

Due to the nature of the I.S.P.E. program being held off campus and having individual coaches who are not a part of the District teaching staff, the student will be held responsible for maintaining their programs and keeping up with the communication between their individual coaches and the Independent Study Coordinator.

The Governing Board believes accountability for meeting agreed objectives is of prime importance. Individuals will be selected based on their ability to handle the individual responsibility. Due to the independent nature of the program a large part of the grade (pass/fail) the student receives will be based upon his/her accomplishment of the agreed objectives. A student who fails to complete two consecutive Independent Study Logs, or misses appointments with the site Independent Study Coordinator may be removed from the I.S.P.E class and the contract cancelled.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a written Independent Study Contract as prescribed by law exists for each participating student and shall formulate procedures for the development of this Independent Study Program.

Adoption History

Initial Adoption: 12/11/95  
Reviewed/Revised: 04/13/98 03/02/21  
06/13/05  
12/08/08  
08/23/10  
09/18/18