

# DELAWARE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: INDEPENDENT STUDY

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 22, 2015

REVIEWED: SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

<b>118. INDEPENDENT STUDY</b>	
<b>1. Purpose</b>	<p>The Board shall consider the approval of a course of independent study for a properly qualified student, as recommended by the Superintendent, on the condition that the student will demonstrate achievement of established academic standards as a result of participation in the independent study.</p> <p>The purposes of independent study may include the opportunity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Extend the learning experience of the classroom.</li><li>2. Develop a student's judgment and self-reliance in the conduct of the learning experience.</li><li>3. Relate academic knowledge to the world of work and learning beyond the school.</li><li>4. Draw upon community resources as well as school resources for a student's educational program.</li><li>5. Include a greater variety of learning experiences within the educational program.</li><li>6. Identify and explore an area of particular interest.</li><li>7. Set personal learning goals and work toward achieving them, with appropriate staff guidance.</li><li>8. Learn to utilize various research tools and methods.</li></ol>
<b>2. Definition</b>	<p>Independent study enables students to pursue a course of study under the direction of a PA Certificated teacher for that course not available in the course selection guide, yet meets PA Department of Education Chapter 4 Guidelines.</p>

<p>3. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.4</p>	<p>The Board shall approve each course of independent study and may designate the number of credits toward graduation to be awarded upon successful completion of each course, except that the Board reserves the right to assign no credit for an approved course.</p> <p>Each course of independent study must meet the requirements of applicable laws and regulations.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for implementing independent study which assure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The students who apply for independent study are counseled.</li> <li>2. That measurable instructional objectives and standards for each planned course of independent study are developed.</li> <li>3. That each student conducts study under appropriate staff guidance and supervision.</li> <li>4. The progress of each student is monitored.</li> <li>5. That the completion of each course of independent study based upon the original specified objectives is certified.</li> <li>6. That recommendations are prepared for Board approval of courses of independent study.</li> </ol>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>Recommendations for approval may include the qualifications of the student, objectives established for the course, description of the method of study and research to be undertaken, staff members assigned to advise the project, manner in which the project will be evaluated, and proposal for the number of credits to be awarded for the course.</p> <p>The Board directs that only those students shall be admitted to courses of independent study who provide evidence of academic proficiency, maturity of judgment, a strong motivation to learn, self-reliance and staff recommendations.</p> <p>Applicants shall be limited to students who have completed the eleventh grade.</p> <p>Courses of independent study may not be limited to participation by a single student but may involve a group of students, subject to Board approval.</p>