## DELAWARE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: INDEPENDENT STUDY

ADOPTED: MAY 12, 2011

REVISED: APRIL 14, 2011

|               | 118. INDEPENDENT STUDY   |
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| 1. Purpose    | 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. |
|               | The purposes of independent study may include the opportunity to:  |
|               | 1. Extend the learning experience of the classroom.  |
|               | 2. Develop a student's judgment and self-reliance in the conduct of the learning experience.   |
|               | 3. Relate academic knowledge to the world of work and learning beyond the school.  |
|               | 4. Draw upon community resources as well as school resources for a student's educational program.  |
|               | 5. Include a greater variety of learning experiences within the educational program.   |
|               | 6. Identify and explore an area of particular interest.  |
|               | 7. Set personal learning goals and work toward achieving them, with appropriate staff guidance.  |
|               | 8. Learn to utilize various research tools and methods.  |
| 2. Definition | Independent study enables students to pursue a course of study under the direction of<br>a PA Certificated teacher for that course not available in the course selection guide,<br>yet meets PA Department of Education Chapter 4 Guidelines.  |
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| 3. | Authority<br>Title 22<br>Sec. 4.4 | The Board shall approve each course of independent study and may designate the<br>number of credits toward graduation to be awarded upon successful completion of<br>each course, except that the Board reserves the right to assign no credit for an<br>approved course.  |
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|    |                                   | Each course of independent study must meet the requirements of applicable laws and regulations.  |
| 4. | Delegation of<br>Responsibility   | The Superintendent or designee shall develop procedures for implementing independent study which assure:   |
|    |                                   | 1. The students who apply for independent study are counseled.   |
|    |                                   | 2. That measurable instructional objectives and standards for each planned course of independent study are developed.  |
|    |                                   | 3. That each student conducts study under appropriate staff guidance and supervision.  |
|    |                                   | 4. The progress of each student is monitored.  |
|    |                                   | 5. That the completion of each course of independent study based upon the original specified objectives is certified.  |
|    |                                   | 6. That recommendations are prepared for Board approval of courses of independent study.   |
| 5. | Guidelines                        | Recommendations for approval may include the qualifications of the student,<br>objectives established for the course, description of the method of study and research<br>to be undertaken, staff members assigned to advise the project, manner in which the<br>project will be evaluated, and proposal for the number of credits to be awarded for<br>the course. |
|    |                                   | 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.  |
|    |                                   | Applicants shall be limited to students who have completed the eleventh grade.   |
|    |                                   | Courses of independent study may not be limited to participation by a single student<br>but may involve a group of students, subject to Board approval.  |
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