

2320 INDEPENDENT STUDY

In keeping with the State mandate on addressing the needs of pupils, the Board of Education authorizes an independent study program aimed at achieving the standards approved by the State of New Jersey for promotion and graduation.

The Board of Education will permit a properly qualified Westfield High School pupil to earn credit toward high school graduation by completion of a program of independent study in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and this policy.

A program of independent study shall consist of curricular activities and may include, but need not be limited to, enrollment in a course offered by an approved institution of higher learning.

The Westfield High School Administration and Supervisors shall approve each program of independent study and designate the number of credits toward graduation to be awarded upon successful completion of each such program. Credit shall be awarded only on the Principal's certification to the Board that the pupil has met the specific instructional objectives established for the program of independent study.

The Board directs that only those pupils approved by Westfield High School Administrators and Supervisors shall be admitted to a program of independent study. Programs of independent study need not be limited to participation by a single pupil but may involve several pupils.

Members of the instructional staff shall offer aid and counsel to qualified pupils who wish to explore and initiate independent projects. The Principal shall approve specified, measurable instructional objectives and assign appropriate staff for each individually planned program of independent study.

The Principal or his/her designee shall maintain a file of independent projects for such review as the Board or the Commissioner may require.

N.J.A.C. 6:8-7.1

Approved: November 21, 2000
Revised: August 26, 2014

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A. Objectives

Through the Independent Study program, the pupil will:

1. Make maximum use of school and community;
2. Be provided with more individualized activities of instruction;
3. Have greater choice and responsibility in selecting what will be learned and how it will be learned;
4. Expand his/her understanding and interest in subjects related to a liberal arts education;
5. Expand his/her college and career readiness skills
6. Practice specific skills involving research;
7. Pursue knowledge in a specialized way not necessarily possible in the normal classroom;
8. Become more self-directed in learning;
9. Develop self-discipline;
10. Realize more fully individual learning potential.

B. General Procedures for Independent Study

All pupils who wish to pursue the Independent Study option at Westfield High School must follow the procedure set forth in the Program of Study, which will include:

1. Consulting with their guidance counselor regarding the proposed Independent Study.
2. Seeking input from appropriate teaching staff members and selecting a mentor for the program.
3. Discussing the Independent Study proposal with their parent(s)/guardian(s).

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4. In cooperation with their counselor, seek the input and support of the department supervisor.
5. With the support of counselor and parent(s)/guardian(s) present the proposal for final approval in Independent Study to the principal.

C. Grading

1. The pupil will receive a grade and regular academic quality points upon completion of the Independent Study based on the assessment included in the approved Independent Study proposal. The mentor may write a narrative in addition to issuing a final grade.
2. Independent Study grades will be included in the computation of a pupil's GPA.

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