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Update on Independent Studies

What We Know (and think we know) Thus Far

The District and the Association have met to clarify the expanded 2021-2022 Contract Independent Study (CIS) program. The Board of Education had the first reading of the revised [Board Policies and Administrative Regulations](#) at the August 5 meeting. The policies and regulations mirror the new law.

The [Return to School 2021 Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) specifies CIS class size at 28 (up to +3 with stipend) for general education 24 (up to +3 with stipend) for special education.

The students' daily schedules will include:

- For grades TK-grade 5 opportunities for daily synchronous instruction.
- For grades 6-8 opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction.
- For grades 9-12 opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction.

Special education and general education TK-grade 12 students are offered the opportunity to shift from in-person instruction to CIS. The loss of students from in-person settings will cause both the loss of in-person settings and the gain of CIS settings. TK-grade 8 elementary and intermediate schools that lose setting due to the shift may gain CIS settings.

Involuntary Reassignments

[Article XIII. Transfer and Reassignment Policy Section D.2](#)

Bargaining Unit members whose assignments are eliminated may be ***involuntarily reassigned*** to CIS settings. Opportunities will be made available for Bargaining Unit members to ***voluntarily seek a reassignment*** prior to the implementation of an involuntary reassignment. If an assignment is unfilled, it becomes a vacancy and will be available for voluntary transfer. The Bargaining Unit member:

- will be assigned to the site the CIS setting/grade is housed.
- will work from the school during instructional time.
- will likely have a board day, instructional day, and professional day aligned to the site.

CIS students may retain their home school regardless of the teacher's site. Since many schools may house CIS settings, the Association is advocating for a single administrator to oversee the program. CIS teachers will need support in obtaining instructional materials, utilizing PowerSchool, maintaining attendance records, and enrolling CIS students.

Additionally, every special education student who transfers from in-person to CIS or CIS to in-person will require an addendum to their I.E.P.