

**Instruction****AR 6158.1(a)****PHYSICAL EDUCATION INDEPENDENT STUDY**

In certain highly exceptional cases in which a middle school or high school student is participating in demanding, regular, out-of-school elite physical activity, the student may petition to be excused from the required physical education courses and may satisfy his/her physical education requirement through a Physical Education Independent Study. In such cases, students will receive ungraded "credit" for their out-of-school activity in place of physical education grades.

The out-of-school activity being proposed as Physical Education Independent Study as a whole or partial substitute for physical education graduation requirement must satisfy the following criteria:

1. The activity or similar level of activity is not available in the school program.
2. The activity is consistent with the goals of the school's physical education curriculum and the State Physical Education Framework.
3. The activity must represent a continuation/extension of the student's past record of involvement and dedication in the activity, as evidenced by the number of years the student has been involved in the training and the individual achievement level attained by the student. The student shall provide official documentation of ranking at the state, national, or international level. Securing a position in a performing arts program that demands high physical exertion (e.g., dance) also may qualify.
4. The student participates in no less than ten hours of documented instructional time a week during the school year in the specific activity.
5. The student's independent study practice schedule does not conflict with the student's schedule of school classes.
6. Must be conducted under the direct supervision of a credentialed or otherwise qualified instructor.

**AR 6158.1 (b)****PHYSICAL EDUCATION INDEPENDENT STUDY (continued)****Procedures for A Physical Education Independent Study**

To request that an activity be used to satisfy whole or partial credit for the physical education graduation requirement, the parent/guardian of the student shall submit written application to the principal or designated school official. The following shall be included in the application:

- a. A statement from the out-of-school instructor which cites the instructor's qualifications or credentials and the official endorsement of the instructor's program and/or training facility.
- b. A statement from the instructor that outlines the nature of the planned out-of-school instruction and specifies the time commitment that will be expected of the student.
- c. A statement signed by the parent/guardian holding the school district harmless from the responsibility/liability for any student accident or injury resulting from the out-of-school instruction.
- d. Evidence from school records that the student's current grade point average is 2.0 or higher.

Once the application is approved and throughout the time covered by the Physical Education Independent Study application, the principal or designee shall require the student to meet with the principal or designee each quarter, at least one week prior to the issuance of quarter grades.

The purpose of this meeting will be to review student progress, time schedules, and other provisions of the Physical Education Independent Study activity. At the time of each of these meetings the out-of-school instructor shall furnish the principal or designee with a written statement verifying the student's participation in the out-of-school instruction, citing the number of hours that he/she has participated in the instruction and assessing his/her achievement in such.

**AR 6158.1(c)****PHYSICAL EDUCATION INDEPENDENT STUDY (continued)**

At all times during the period of the Physical Education Independent Study program, the student's grade point average must be 2.0 or higher, and the student must meet all requirements for participation in extracurricular and cocurricular activities, as outlined in Board Policy 6145. If all conditions have been met, the principal or designee will authorize the granting of "credit" for the student's Physical Education Independent Study in place of grades for a regular physical education class for the given quarter.

**Non-Compliance with Conditions of the Physical Education Directed Study**

Should the principal or designee deem that the requirements of the Physical Education Independent Study activity have not been met, the permission for this alternative credit will be withdrawn and no credit will be given for the quarter in which the review occurs.

**Visitations by School Personnel**

In order to validate the information contained in the application as well as the caliber of the outside instruction, school personnel reserve the right to visit the training site during the grading period in question.

**Physical Education Independent Study in the Middle School**

Middle School students who are excused from regular physical education classes on the basis of an approved Physical Education Independent Study program shall satisfy criteria above, as appropriately modified for the grades 6-8. It is expected that Physical Education Independent Study would be granted in very rare cases.

In cases where Physical Education Independent Study is allowed, the student will be placed on a shortened day schedule (five periods rather than six). This provision, which reduces the length of the regular school day, recognizes the time commitment involved in the out-of-school instruction and is intended to provide time for the study required in support of the other regular classes.

reviewed: October 1, 2002

Culver City, California