

**Western Sierra Charter School**  
**Special Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Wednesday, August 3, 2022**  
**Open Session Board Meeting – 3:00 PM**

This meeting will be by teleconference pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

The Western Sierra Charter Schools (WSCS) Board of Directors (Board) and employees of WSCS shall meet via the Zoom meeting platform. Members of the public who wish to access this Board meeting may do so at:

<https://www.facebook.com/wscsfamily/live>

Members of the public who wish to make written comment to the Board for this meeting should make their written request at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at:

<http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>

Members of the public who wish to make live, spoken comment during this meeting should make their written request at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at: <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>. Public will remain muted until appropriate time. Individual comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If an interpreter is needed for comments, they will be translated to English and the time limit shall be six (6) minutes. The Board of Directors may limit the total time for public comment to a reasonable time. The Board reserves the right to mute or remove a member of the public if comments or actions disrupts the Board meeting.

**Access to Board Materials:** A copy of the written materials which will be submitted to the WSCS Board may be reviewed by any interested persons on <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-agenda-and-minutes.html> website along with this agenda following the posting of the agenda at least 72 hours in advance of this meeting.

**Disability Access:** Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this public meeting should be made 24 hours prior to the meeting at <http://www.wscsfamily.org/board-request.html>. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations. The agenda and public documents can be modified upon request as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call to Establish Quorum
3. \*Action: Board findings pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)

*The Charter School Board of Directors determines, in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(1)(B), that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)(3), the Board has also reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency declared by the Governor on March 4, 2020, and finds that State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Directors to meet safely in person and/or that State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.*

4. \*Action: Meeting Agenda for August 3, 2022
5. Hearing of Persons Wishing to Address the Board
6. Written Communications (*if any*)
7. Public Hearing: Independent Study Policy

Open Public Hearing: No earlier than: 3:00 PM

*In accordance with Section 11701 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, setting policy pursuant to Education Code section 51747, the Board shall consider, in a public hearing, the scope*

*of its existing or prospective use of independent study as an instructional strategy, its purposes in authorizing independent study, and factors bearing specifically on the maximum realistic lengths of assignments and acceptable number of missed assignments for specific populations of pupils or adult education students. This policy shall reflect an awareness that excessive leniency in its terms can result in pupils falling so far behind their age peers as to increase, rather than decrease, the risk of their dropping out of school.*

**8. \*Action: Independent Study Policy**

*The Board shall consider adoption of an Independent Study Policy in accordance with the requirements of Education Code Section 51747.*

**9. Next Scheduled Board Meeting: September 13 at 2:00 PM**

**10. \*Adjournment**

## **WESTERN SIERRA CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Commented [JAR1]: Reminder to update revision date in header.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICY FOR ALL WSCS SCHOOLS**

*This policy replaces the prior Independent Study Board Policy that was originally adopted 9/4/08.*

Western Sierra Charter Schools operates Mountain Home School Charter, Glacier High School Charter, and Endeavor Charter School (hereinafter, collectively the “Charter Schools”). The Charter Schools shall offer independent study to meet the educational needs of pupils enrolled in the Charter Schools. Independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate and is designed to teach the knowledge and skills of the core curriculum. The Charter Schools shall provide appropriate existing services and resources to enable pupils to complete their independent study successfully. The following written policies have been adopted by the Western Sierra Charter Schools Board of Directors for implementation at Charter School:

1. For pupils in all grade levels and programs offered by the Charter Schools, the maximum length of time that may elapse between the time an assignment is made and the date by which the pupil must complete the assigned work shall be no more than twenty (20) school days.
2. The Principal or designee shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the best interests of the pupil to remain in independent study upon the following triggers:
  - a. When a pupil fails to complete 4 assignments during any period of twenty (20) school days:
  - b. In the event a student’s educational progress falls below satisfactory levels as determined by the Charter School’s Response to Intervention (RTI) Process which considers all of the following indicators:
    - i. The pupil’s achievement and engagement in the independent study program, as indicated by the pupil’s performance on applicable pupil-level measures of pupil achievement and pupil engagement set forth in Education Code Section 52060(d) paragraphs (4) and (5).
    - ii. The completion of assignments, assessments, or other indicators that evidence that the pupil is working on assignments.
    - iii. Learning required concepts, as determined by the supervising teacher.
    - iv. Progressing toward successful completion of the course of study or individual course, as determined by the supervising teacher.

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A written record of the findings of any evaluation conducted pursuant to this policy shall be treated as a mandatory interim pupil record. The record shall be maintained for a period of three years from the date of the evaluation and, if the pupil transfers to another California public school, the record shall be forwarded to that school.

3. The Charter School shall provide content aligned to grade level standards that is substantially equivalent to in-person instruction. For high school grade levels this shall include access to all courses offered by the Charter School for graduation and approved by the UC or CSU as creditable under the A-G admissions criteria.
4. The Charter School has adopted tiered reengagement strategies for all pupils who are not generating attendance for more than 10 percent of required minimum instructional time over four continuous weeks of WSCS's approved instructional calendar; pupils found not participatory in synchronous instructional offerings pursuant to Education Code Section 51747.5 for more than 50 percent of the scheduled times of synchronous instruction in a school month as applicable by grade span, or pupils who are in violation of the written agreement pursuant to Education Code Section 51747(g). These procedures shall include local programs intended to address chronic absenteeism, as applicable, with at least all of the following:
  - a. Verification of current contact information for each enrolled pupil;
  - b. Notification to parents or guardians of lack of participation within one school day of the recording of a non-attendance day or lack of participation;
  - c. Outreach from the Charter School to determine pupil needs including connection with health and social services as necessary;
  - d. A clear standard for requiring a pupil-parent-educator conference to review a pupil's written agreement, and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the pupil's achievement and well-being, consistent with the policies adopted pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (g) of Education Code Section 51747.
5. The following plan shall be in place in accordance with Education Code Section 51747(e) for synchronous instruction and live interaction:
  - a. For pupils in transitional kindergarten through grade 3, inclusive, the plan to provide opportunities for daily synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year by each pupil's teacher or teachers of record shall be as follows: The teacher of record will offer the opportunity for daily synchronous, two-way instruction and personal interaction delivered in person, or via internet, or by telephonic communication.
  - b. For pupils in grades 4-8, inclusive, the plan to provide opportunities for daily live interaction between the pupil and a certificated or non-certificated employee of the Charter School and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year by each pupil's teacher or teachers of record shall be as follows: The teacher of record will offer the opportunity for weekly synchronous, two-way instruction delivered in person, or via internet, or by telephonic communication. Additionally, school staff will provide the opportunity for daily

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**Deleted:** When the evaluation described above under paragraph 2.b. is triggered to consider whether remaining in independent study is in the best interest of the pupil, a pupil-parent-educator conference shall be required to review a pupil's written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the pupil's achievement and well-being. This conference shall be a meeting involving, at a minimum, all parties who signed the pupil's written independent study agreement

- personal interaction delivered in person, or via internet, or by telephonic communication.
- c. For pupils in grades 9-12, inclusive, the plan to provide opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year by each pupil's teacher or teachers of record shall be as follows: The teacher of record will offer the opportunity for weekly synchronous, two-way instruction and personal interaction delivered in person, or via internet, or by telephonic communication.
6. The following plan shall be utilized to transition pupils whose families wish to return to in-person instruction from independent study expeditiously, and, in no case, later than five instructional days: WSCS Schools are independent study charter schools and do not provide any full-time, in-person instruction. Pupils who wish to return to in-person instruction may do so at any time by enrolling in their neighborhood District school. School personnel will assist with this process.
7. A current written agreement shall be maintained on file for each independent study pupil, including but not limited to, all of the following:
- a. The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a pupil's assignments, for reporting the pupil's academic progress, and for communicating with a pupil's parent or guardian regarding a pupil's academic progress.
  - b. The objectives and methods of study for the pupil's work, and the methods used to evaluate that work.
  - c. The specific resources, including materials and personnel, that will be made available to the pupil. These resources shall include confirming or providing access to all pupils to the connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work.
  - d. A statement of the policies adopted pursuant to Education Code Section 51747, subdivisions (a) and (b) regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a pupil's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed before an evaluation of whether or not the pupil should be allowed to continue in independent study.
  - e. The duration of the independent study agreement, including the beginning and ending dates for the pupil's participation in independent study under the agreement. No independent study agreement shall be valid for any period longer than one school year.
  - f. A statement of the number of course credits or, for the elementary grades, other measures of academic accomplishment appropriate to the agreement, to be earned by the pupil upon completion.
  - g. A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of pupils who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, individuals with exceptional needs in order to be consistent with the pupil's individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794), pupils

in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and pupils requiring mental health supports.

- h. The inclusion of a statement in each independent study agreement that independent study is an optional educational alternative in which no pupil may be required to participate. In the case of a pupil who is referred or assigned to any school, class, or program pursuant to Section 48915 or 48917, the agreement also shall include the statement that instruction may be provided to the pupil through independent study only if the pupil is offered the alternative of classroom instruction.

- i. ~~For a pupil participating in an independent study program that is scheduled for more than 14 school days, each~~ written agreement shall be signed, before the commencement of independent study, by the pupil, the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or caregiver, if the pupil is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and ~~the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the pupil, as applicable.~~ Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, for a pupil participating in an independent study program that is scheduled for less than 15 school days, each written agreement shall be signed within 10 school days of the commencement of the first day of the pupil's enrollment in independent study, by the pupil, the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or caregiver, if the pupil is less than 18 years of age, the certificated employee who has been designated as having responsibility for the general supervision of independent study, and the certificated employee designated as having responsibility for the special education programming of the pupil, as applicable. For purposes of this paragraph "caregiver" means a person who has met the requirements of Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 6550) of Division 11 of the Family Code.

- 8. The Charter School shall comply with the Education Code sections 51745 through 51749.3 and the provisions of the Charter Schools Act of 1992 and the State Board of Education regulations adopted there under.
- 9. The Executive Director of Schools ~~may~~ establish regulations to implement these policies in accordance with the law.

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