

Questions and Answers about Independence High School

What is Independence High School?



Independence High School (IHS), is a WASC accredited alternative high school that is highly individualized in its curriculum and instruction and allows students to work at home (25 hours minimum per week) or in the confines of the school setting when available. All core curriculum is standards-based, with math courses being taught in a classroom setting. In order to qualify for a **high school diploma from Independence**, students must successfully complete **230 credits**. In order to qualify for an **adult diploma**, all adult students must successfully complete **190 credits**.

What is Independent Study?

Independent Study is a program within IHS where a yearly Master Agreement contract is created between the student/guardian and the school, setting forth responsibilities and commitments. Students are scheduled for a weekly appointment and are required to enroll in a minimum of four classes. Most students, especially if they are enrolled in a mathematics course, are required to attend school anywhere between five and eight hours a week.

Who is it for?

Students who have completed 50 high school credits or age 16 to adult. The Director/Principal may waive this requirement under certain circumstances in accordance with the Board Policies set for by the District.

How do students enroll?

For students who are 18 years of age and younger and enrolled in the LUHSD and whose class has not already graduated -

A transfer request is made through a student's home school. Transfer requests shall be based on an acceptable reason and evidence that the student will work independently to complete all requirements. The student and family discusses

the reasons for a transfer and secures a Transfer Application Request from the counselor. The application must be completed and returned to the counselor. All decisions made will be in the best interest of the student

For students who are 18 years of age and older, not enrolled in any District school and whose class has already graduated -

An application is made through the IHS office by completing an enrollment packet, providing a transcript and all necessary paperwork. All adults choosing to earn a high school diploma must reside within the district boundaries.

What is the purpose of Independent Study and how does it serve the student?

Independent Study seeks to serve the individual educational needs of students and to provide enrichment and help for students requesting an alternative method of education. We serve students who have experienced academic, behavioral or personal difficulties, and were not able to function comfortably at the comprehensive high school or desired a smaller school setting. Independent Study allows these students to study at their own pace, in a place of their own choosing, and on their own time.

How are credits awarded?

Credits are earned on a variable credit system (except in math where semester credits are applied) by satisfying the terms of the contract and district guidelines. We expect students to earn a minimum of 15 credits per quarter / 30 credits per semester (depending on the specific need of the student). The student may be given the opportunity to complete additional assignments if approved by teacher and administrator.

Credits earned from Independence High School will be on the student's official transcript and applied toward the graduation requirements of the specific school. All students must meet the standards and benchmarks for each course and may not graduate until their senior year. Students who complete the graduation requirements at IHS will earn either an Independence High School or Liberty Adult School diploma. In order to earn a comprehensive high school diploma, students must attend their final semester at that

comprehensive site and meet the 270 credit requirement.

How long may a student remain at Independence High School?

Depending on the ultimate goal for graduation, the student may remain with IHS or return to their comprehensive site. Because graduation requirements are different at the comprehensive site, students are encouraged to meet regularly with their counselor and discuss plans throughout their enrollment period with us. This will enable the student and IHS to discuss realistic goals for graduation and consider what's in the best interest of the student.

Are the rules different from the rules of a traditional school?

An Independence High School student are expected to be take responsibility for his/her own actions and be mindful and respectful towards others. The student must attend school with work completed. If a student fails to produce work, he/she will be required to remain on site and complete the work prior to returning home or he/she will be considered truant under the Independent Study guidelines set forth by the State of California. At IHS, teachers are always available to assist students (must have prior teacher approval for non-appointment day/time). We also provide open labs and tutoring throughout the day in our Study Hall (no approval needed). While working on campus (non-appointment time), students are required to be with a teacher and working on subject matter only. Students are not allowed to infringe on the appointment time of others by socializing. Outside of school time, students are not allowed to loiter on/around campus, within the city or other schools.

Students are expected to abide by all rules set forth at Independence High School as stipulated in the District's Board Policies and California Education Codes.

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Mindfulness

Math Lab

TUPE

Read 180

Bridgeway (GED)

Outdoor Environmental Science Center

College/Career Planning

Student Leadership / Activities & Clubs

Essay Contest

Outdoor Wetland Learning (OWL)

Outdoor Gardens

Community Volunteer Program

Poetry Out Loud

Vocational Work Experience

And Much More.....



Mission Statement

Our mission is to inspire all students to learn by providing opportunities for academic achievement and personal success.

Vision Statement

Students will graduate as self-directed learners who are effective, clear communicators and responsible citizens prepared to compete globally in the 21st century.

Motto

Inspiration • Dedication • Graduation

Independence High School strives to maintain a small community atmosphere and personal approach, allowing students to take advantage of individual attention and instruction.

School Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Monday - Friday

Guy Rognlien
Director of
Community Education

Shannon Abono Counselor
Leanne Baltzell Secretary
Hermelinda Meraz Secretary
Mary Warr Registrar

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL
(925) 634-2589

Para asistencia en Español por favor marque x1037

INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL



Home of the Owls!

**929 Second Street
Brentwood, California 94513
(925) 634-2589**

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luhsd.net/independence
@the HOOT94513

On August 28, 2013, the Liberty Union High School District Board of Trustees approved the owl as the mascot for Independence High School. Many cultures believe the owl to be symbolic of such honorable traits as intelligence, wisdom, protection, and independence. The study of owls has been, and will continue to be a tradition at Independence High School.

