

# Questions and Answers about Independence High School

## What is Independence High School?

Independence High School (IHS), is a WASC accredited alternative high school within the Liberty Union High School District that is highly individualized in its curriculum and instruction. Subject/course objectives reflect the curriculum adopted by the district's governing board and are consistent with the established district standards, as outlined in the district's course of study/description.



## Who is eligible for Independence High?

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.

## Why do students/families choose Independence High School?

Our school serves the individual educational needs of students by providing support and enrichment for students requesting an alternative method of education. We often 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. Our model allows students to study at their own pace, in a place of their own choosing, and on their own time.

## Is the school entirely an independent study model? **No!**

Our school is a hybrid model in which students are assigned independent coursework in the areas within science, social science and English, while math and other subjects are taught in a traditional classroom setting.

## How do students enroll / transfer?

A transfer request is made through a student's current school. The application process starts with a conversation between the student, parent and the student's current school counselor.

Transfer requests shall be based on an acceptable reason and evidence that the student will work independently to complete all requirements. The completed transfer application is forwarded to us for processing. All decisions made will be in the best interest of the student.

## How long may a student remain at Independence High School?

As long as this school model is academically beneficial, the student may choose to spend their entire high school career with us. We are not an independent study for the three comprehensive sites in our district.

Depending on the ultimate goal for graduation, students are expected to remain with us for a minimum of one semester. If the plan is to return and graduate from the comprehensive school, students need to meet regularly with our counselor to ensure the correct amount credits are both taken and earned while discussing realistic goals and what's in the best interest of the student.

## Is it true that students meet one hour a week and just turn in a packet of work? **Not true!**

Students 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.

Students typically work at home (25 hours minimum per week) or in the school setting when available.

## How are credits awarded?

Credits are earned on a variable credit system (except in seat time courses like math where semester credits are applied). 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 are applied to the student's official transcript at the end of each semester.

## How many credits are required to graduate?

In order to qualify for a high school diploma from

Independence, students must successfully complete **230 credits**. Additional options for graduation are available for qualifying students; adult diploma (190 credits) and/or our Bridgeway (GED) program.

Just like our traditional high schools, all students must meet the standards and benchmarks for each course, earning all needed credits prior to graduation and may not graduate until their senior year.

All students must meet the minimum credit requirement for the State of California and our district requirements. With that said, Independence High School requires 40 less elective credits than our traditional comprehensive high school in our district. An adult diploma (and our continuation school in the district) eliminate 80 elective credits while still meeting all requirements.

## Is there a graduation? **Yes!**

Students who complete all graduation requirements prior to graduation day/evening are eligible and highly encouraged to participate in the Independence High School commencement exercises.

In order to earn a comprehensive high school diploma and participate in their graduation, students must attend their final semester at that comprehensive site and meet the 270 credit requirement.

## Are the diplomas equivalent to a traditional site high school diploma? **Yes!**

As a matter of fact, the GED is as well. Ask about our Bridgeway (GED) program.

## Can I attend college with a diploma from Independence High School? **Yes!**

- ✓ Community College
  - As a matter of fact, many students attend community college concurrently while enrolled at our school.
- ✓ UC/CSU (4-year college)
  - Please see counselor

Because colleges have different requirements, students are encouraged to meet regularly with their counselor to make a plan and discuss options.

## INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Mindfulness

Math Lab

TUPE

ELA Supports

Outdoor Environmental Science Center

Bridgeway Program (GED)

Open Study Hall

Student Leadership / Activities & Clubs

Tutorial Support

College/Career Planning

Essay Contest

Outdoor Wetland Learning (OWL)

The Arts

World Languages

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

Carolynn Hoopes.....Assistant Principal  
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

**Are there other  
high school  
options for me?**

**Re-introducing...**

**INDEPENDENCE  
HIGH SCHOOL**



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

[luhsd.net/independence](http://luhsd.net/independence)

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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.