

Guidelines for the Utilization of Option II - Independent Study - 2019-20 - Delran School District

N.J.A.C. 6A: 8-5.1(a) 2

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) recognizes and acknowledges that all students will not achieve all the required NJDOE approved learning standards in the same manner and/or with the same level of success. To this end, the Delran Township Public School District is permitted to allow students with individualized learning opportunities, outside of the traditional classroom, that are stimulating and challenging and that enable students to meet or exceed the NJDOE approved standards. This is commonly referred to as, "Option II." Participation in Option II is predicated on the application process through which students seek approval.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A: 8-5.1 adopted in June 2009, district boards of education shall establish a process to approve individualized student learning opportunities that meet or exceed the Student Learning Standards. This regulation requires a set of policies and procedures that permit a student or group of students to meet or exceed the standards in any subject area through alternative activities. Documentation of the student's achievement of the curricular objectives is required.

Independent Study. Independent study program is intended for an individual who seeks intense study in an academic area not currently offered by the Delran High School curriculum. Independent studies may not replace a course listed in the DHS Program of Studies.

**Graduation Requirements of the
Delran Township Public School District**

To graduate from Delran High School, it is necessary to complete 130 credits (these may be a combination of full-year or semester courses.) These requirements include the successful completion of the following:

- a. Four full-year English courses
- b. Three full-year Mathematics courses (or the equivalent)
- c. Three full-year Science courses (or the equivalent)
- d. One full-year course each in World History, US History I and US History II
- e. One full-year course in World Languages
- f. One year of Health and Physical Education (including Driver Education) for each year in attendance
- g. One half-year course in personal financial literacy (covered by Freshman Seminar)
- h. One year of Visual or Performing Arts (or the equivalent)
- i. One year of 21st Century Life and Careers or Career-Technical Education (Business, Technology or Culinary Arts)
- j. 15 hours of community service to be completed during US History II

Note: In addition to the above requirements, each student must meet the required standardized testing requirement as outlined by the NJDOE

Each student shall pursue a minimum of 7 academic courses per year with the exception of Cooperative Business Education (CBE) students who must be enrolled in five (5) academic classes or Senior Option students who must be enrolled in six (6) academic courses.

Responsibilities and requirements for participation in Option II Credit Attainment:

- Completion and submission of all required documents to the Assistant Principal prior to established deadlines.
- Procurement of an advisor/mentor who will oversee the completion of approved credit experience. Independent Study advisors must be certified Delran Township School District staff members.
- Grades will be designated on DHS transcripts as numerical values and will be calculated in a student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA). Course dropped after published drop/add dates will be recorded as "WP" or "WF" on DHS transcripts as per the drop-add procedures.

Option II Credit – Independent Study

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Continued

Expected Outcome (explain in detail, attach additional sheets as necessary) – the following should be addressed in the outcome:

- What will be learned – new knowledge gained?
- How will the study be evaluated by the advisor?
- In what form will student mastery be demonstrated?
- What standards will be addressed?

Will this Independent Study occur during regular school hours? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, indicate how often (Daily, weekly, etc.) you will meet with your advisor, where (classroom) and during which period?

** Independent Studies approved during regular school hours require that the student report to a specified classroom – this will be indicated on his/her DHS Schedule.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Advisor/Mentor Signature: _____

Date: _____

School Counselor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Section 3:

I have reviewed the request for Option II credit and have determined the following:

- Approved – is sufficiently aligned with Delran Township School District and NJDOE approved learning standards.
- Not approved – does not sufficiently align with Delran Township School District and NJDOE approved learning standards.

Comments: _____

Academic Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Section 4:

Approved in the following category:

- Independent Study _____ Credits

Comments: _____

Assistant Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Superintendent Signature: _____ Date: _____