School Re-Opening FAQs

1. When will the 2020-2021 school year begin for students?
   
   **Answer:** All students will begin school on Tuesday, August 25.

Learning Models

2. What model of learning is the school district planning for the beginning of the school year?
   
   **Answer:** Our district’s plan is for all students to return to school on August 25, 2020 in one of two models: **blended or online independent study**. Both models will begin fully virtual with distance learning.

   A. Fully online Independent Study with Edgenuity
   
   B. Two-Day Blended Model where students attend classes two full days on campus each week and attend classes virtually through Canvas for the other 3 days

   **Please note:**

   - The Two-Day Blended Model will start virtually with distance learning through Canvas through the first grading period (September 25).
   
   - Students selecting this model will also have the option to remain in fully virtual distance learning for the remainder of the fall semester.

3. How do families select their learning model preference before the school year begins?
   
   **Answer:** If you are choosing the blended or online learning models, you can submit your registration now via this survey. This will help us plan better for the incoming year and adjust schedules and classrooms accordingly. We are optimistic that by early August, we will be able to provide more detailed information on what the incoming school year will look like for students in each model.

4. What does the blended learning model look like?
   
   **Answer:** A blended learning model combines on-campus and virtual distance learning at home. This model provides students with flexibility to meet their instructional needs and maintain school connections, while providing more opportunity for social distancing when possible. In the blended model, students will maintain their current school affiliation and have the option to participate in their school’s activities, athletics, arts, and specialty classes. Please note: The two-day blended model will start virtually with distance learning through Canvas through the first grading period (September 25).
5. What does an online independent study learning model look like?

**Answer:** Students will primarily learn at home in an online format. Teachers will provide a variety of instructional strategies including live virtual instruction. Teachers will also provide virtual as well as in person, office hours. Students will have the ability to participate in school activities and take elective courses based on their individual interests and needs.

**It is important to note, this model is not new to EUHSD; it is offered to students through the Independent Study program at each of our comprehensive high schools through the Learning Center.**

6. Will Special Education services be provided for both learning models (blended and online independent study)?

**Answer:** Yes, the district is prepared to be flexible and creative to ensure high quality instruction, services, and supports to students with IEP’s and 504 plans to the extent possible. Our Special Education Department is working diligently to put plans in place to ensure students with special needs are met in both models.

7. Will other services such as EL supports and education intervention be provided for both instructional models (blended and online independent study)?

**Answer:** Yes, the district is working on plans to meet students’ unique needs in any of the models to the extent possible. More details will be shared out in the fall.

8. I am interested in a blended model due to personal health reasons. Will the district still provide an electronic device, or do I have to provide my own?

**Answer:** The district will continue to provide electronic devices to those families who need them for students to access learning options via laptop and/or internet hotspot device.

9. Will teachers use video conference software to teach like a true online learning environment or will it be the same as the distance learning that was implemented this Spring?

**Answer:** Live instruction will be conducted primarily using the Microsoft TEAMS platform. This platform values student privacy and safety. Teachers will be trained in MS TEAMS and understand the full functionality of the platform. The live instruction offered as a part of the blended model supports the high-quality instruction and personalized learning environment our families are accustomed to in EUHSD.
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10. Will my student remain registered or enrolled at their current school site for blended learning or online independent study?

   **Answer:** Yes, your student will maintain their current school affiliation and remain registered at their school site for the incoming school year, 2020-21. The only exception may be students at DLA or VHS who require online independent study as these alternative schools do not currently have this option.

11. Will my student be able to switch between the blended and online independent study models during the school year?

   **Answer:** Yes, we have identified the semester break as an opportunity for students to change their model preference. Requests outside of this timeline will be based on an individual student’s unique needs. These will be evaluated and approved on a case by case basis.

12. Can my student, regardless of the instructional model selected (blended or online independent study) participate in their school’s activities?

   **Answer:** Yes, students will have the opportunity to participate in their school’s activities such as sports, clubs, and after school activities regardless of the instructional program.

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**Blended Model**

13. If I choose the Blended Learning Option, how do I determine my course schedule?

   **A.** There is no need for any action at this time for students selecting the two-day blended model. Most students already worked with their counselors to select their courses in Spring 2020. We expect the course selection to be consistent with what was planned at that time. Some courses and electives may change based on availability.

14. What if my student attends Del Lago Academy or Valley High School? What learning option should I select?

   **A.** Students at Del Lago Academy and Valley High School will be able to participate in the two-day blended model. Additional scheduling options and variations may be available and will be communicated by the school directly. These schools do not offer online independent study. Students at DLA or VHS needing online independent study should contact their school and inquire about options which will likely include a transfer to a comprehensive high school for this option.
15. If students choose to take AP but are not comfortable coming to campus, are they still allowed to take the AP class?

A. To be eligible to take Canvas LMS courses, students should select the Two-Day Blended Model and plan to attend school two days each week. Students in Online Independent Study students may be able to take Canvas LMS courses such as Advanced Placement and other electives, as space is available. This determination would be made after families make a commitment to their preferred learning option.

Online Independent Study

16. How does the Online Independent Study model work?

A. The online independent study model includes the following components:

• Online Learning 5 Days Each Week
• Flexible Scheduling
• Individualized Pacing
• Weekly Check-Ins with Teacher
• College Prep Curriculum
• Academic Grades
• Mandatory Attendance
• Social Emotional Supports
• Variety of Electives

The online independent study model uses the curriculum program Edgenuity to provide video, text, and interactive learning experiences for students. Teachers support students with weekly meetings to review progress, clarify expectations, and review student work. This program is ideal for students who are self-motivated and ready to learn at their own pace.

17. Will all electives and Advanced Placement classes be available to a student selecting Independent Study?

A. No, courses in Edgenuity are limited (see list of courses available). As space is available, students may be able to take Canvas LMS courses such as Advanced Placement and other electives. This determination would be made after families make a commitment to their preferred learning option. These courses are not guaranteed for students selecting Independent Study.
18. If I pick Independent Study, how do I determine my course schedule?

A. After the survey closes, your school site staff will reach out to you to discuss your course selection and preferred classes.

19. What if my student attends Del Lago Academy or Valley High School? What learning option should I select?

A. Students at Del Lago Academy and Valley High School will be able to participate in the two-day blended model. Additional scheduling options and variations may be available and will be communicated by the school directly. These schools do not offer online independent study. Students at DLA or VHS needing online independent study should contact their school and inquire about options which will likely include a transfer to a comprehensive high school for this option.

20. Can Online Independent Study Students Participate in athletics/sports?

Yes, students will have the opportunity to participate in their school’s activities such as sports, clubs, and after school activities regardless of the instructional program.

¿Pueden los estudiantes de Escuela Virtual participar en atletismo/deportes?

21. Will online independent study students be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes, students will have the opportunity to participate in their school’s activities such as sports, clubs, and after school activities regardless of the instructional program.

¿Se permitirá a los estudiantes virtuales participar en actividades de extracurriculares?

22. Will high school counselors be available to help make sure students choose the correct online independent study classes?

Yes

23. Will Online Independent Study Students have a reporting teacher? Where do they go for questions?

Online Independent Study students will report to assigned teachers who will be their touch points for questions and assistance similar to a regular classroom experience.
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24. How is this different than Distance Learning?

Online Independent Study is different than distance learning in the following ways:

- The Online Independent Study will be utilizing a separate virtual platform that allows students flexibility in how and when they complete their work

Student Athletics

25. What are the reopening guidelines for Athletics?

State CIF is expected to release guideline information for athletics on July 20, 2020.