Did you know?

At a Glance: Independent Study, Quarantine & Staff Shortages

1. **Concurrent instruction is permitted during Independent Study.**
   Concurrent instruction (or "zoom in the room" as it is often referred to) is allowed under the Independent Study (IS) provisions in Assembly Bill (AB) 130, as amended by AB/Senate Bill (SB) 167. A classroom teacher can provide instruction to quarantined students via simulcast as long as there is a plan in place for supporting those students consistent with what is outlined for IS under AB 130, as amended by AB/SB 167. Attendance for students who participate in concurrent instruction can generate funding through meeting IS attendance accounting requirements. We are encouraging districts to collaborate and share ideas on how best to provide concurrent instruction from both a classroom and operational perspective.

2. **LEAs can earn apportionment for student attendance from first day of traditional IS/Short-Term Independent Study.**
   LEAs may offer a less complex form of IS to students in their first 14 school days of IS; they do not have to provide synchronous instruction, daily live interaction, or tiered re-engagement for students during the first 14 school days. The 14 school days are cumulative over the school year. Therefore, in order to continue receiving apportionment funding for a student beyond the 14 days, LEAs must include synchronous instruction, access to daily live interaction, and tiered re-engagement pursuant to statute.

3. **Retired teachers can be hired to support staff vacancies.**
   Governor Newsom relaxed rules for when retired teachers can return to the classroom. An executive order signed by Governor Gavin Newsom allows retired school staff to return to school campuses to help fill staffing shortages without waiting 180 days after their retirement as had been previously required. This waiver, authorized by Executive Order N-12-21, is in effect until the state of emergency has ended.

4. **The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) has relaxed certain requirements to address teacher shortages**
   On September 7, 2021, the CTC voted to postpone assessments for Preliminary Credential-RICA, TPA, CALAPA. More information on these flexibilities can be found at the following link: https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/commission/files/guidance-regarding-eoa-related-to-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=d2ef2fb1_24

5. **Local Educational Agencies can use state money to hire classified staff and more substitutes.**
   AB 86 had funds in it for the purpose of hiring more classified staff to work as one-on-one aides and to support keeping campuses safe, clean, and sanitized. Many districts have increased compensation for substitutes as a way of creating a way to hire more substitutes.

6. **Modified Quarantine may reduce the number of students who need to quarantine at home and rely on Independent Study.**
   Public Health guidelines allow for students who were exposed to someone who tested positive to remain at school. These students must remain in a modified quarantine, remain in stable groups, continue to mask, remain asymptomatic, and test twice per week. This may reduce some of the burden in the volume of students who need to be served while they quarantine from home.