



## SCOTIA UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Amy Gossien, Superintendent/Principal

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August 6, 2021

Greetings, Families of Our 2020-2021 School Year Distance Learners!

**If you are planning to return to in person instruction for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, you do not need to read any further - please call the school or email Trudi Walsh at [twalsh@scotiaschool.org](mailto:twalsh@scotiaschool.org) to let us know your child will be at school on Monday, August 30!**

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**For those of you who plan to continue with at home learning, please read below:**

Assembly Bill 130 has changed the requirements for distance learning for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year and replaced it with Independent Study. This independent study is intended for “individualized study for a pupil whose health would be put at risk by in person instruction”. As you will see below, independent study looks very similar to last year’s distance learning, but with more requirements.

As with other schools our size, **Scotia School will not be directly providing an independent study option for our students**, but will instead be contracting with another district to provide an independent study option for our families who request it. Independent study requirements for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year include:

**A signed Independent Study Agreement, and a parent/pupil/teacher conference prior to executing the written agreement.** Before signing a written agreement, and upon the request of the parent or guardian of a pupil, the LEA shall conduct a phone, video conference, or in-person pupil-parent-educator conference or other school meeting.

**For pupils in TK through grade 3**, independent study must include a plan to provide opportunities for daily synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year.

**For pupils in grades 4 to 8**, independent study must include a plan to provide opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all pupils throughout the school year.

**“Synchronous instruction”** means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction involving live two-way communication between the teacher and pupil.

**“Live interaction”** means interaction between the pupil and a staff member.

**If a student fails to meet these attendance or engagement standards**, the law requires that (s)he return to in person instruction. Attendance and engagement standards include participation as well as work completion by due dates.

**If you plan to enroll your student(s) in this Independent Study option for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, you must notify the school by Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Please call the school during school hours (leave a voicemail if there is not a live answer) or email Trudi Walsh at [twalsh@scotiaschool.org](mailto:twalsh@scotiaschool.org). to let us know your plans. We will then provide you with the appropriate information for your child’s learning plan. Thank you!**