
ATTENDANCE, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, SATISFACTORY EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS, AND INVOLUNTARY REMOVAL POLICY

The Pathways Academy Adult Education (“PAAE” or the “School”) Board of Directors (the “Board”) believes that a strong correlation exists between student attendance and participation in school and high academic achievement. Students who are habitually truant or chronically absent have an increased probability of low academic achievement or eventually dropping out of school. The School is committed to student success. In order to support all students in academic achievement, the school maintains the following *Attendance, Missed Assignments, Satisfactory Educational Progress, and Involuntary Removal Policy (the “Policy”)*.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are expected to complete 100% of assigned course work by the assigned due date(s).
2. Students are required to log into the Learning Management System (LMS) and to work on assignments in their online courses each school day.
3. Students are responsible for reaching out to their teacher with any questions or concerns regarding academics.
4. Students are responsible for completing their academic assignments and adhering to this Policy, despite any technical difficulty.
5. Students are required to attend all mandated state testing either virtually or in-person as specified.
6. Students are required to attend all mandatory classes, meetings, and appointments.
7. Students are required to adhere to the terms of the Master Agreement.

The Procedures for Tiered Reengagement Strategies and Procedures as outlined in the Charter School’s Independent Study Policy may be triggered if the minor student and their parent/guardian or adult student or emancipated minor is found to be non-compliant with the above expectations and requirements, and shall be triggered at the very least if students meet the circumstances as described in Education Code Section 51747(d). For students who continue to demonstrate attendance and participation issues, the Charter School may conduct an evaluation to determine whether it is in the best interests of the student to remain enrolled in independent study (“Evaluation”), as further discussed in the Independent Study Policy.

INVOLUNTARY REMOVAL PROCESS

Once an Evaluation is complete, if it is determined that it is not in the best interests of the pupil to remain enrolled in the independent study program, the parent/guardian, or adult student (pupil is over age 18) shall be notified in writing of the School’s intent to remove the pupil from the program as it is not in the student’s best interest to remain in independent study. The notice shall be in the native language of the Parent(s)/Guardian, or adult student, or, if the student is a homeless child or youth, or a foster child or youth, in the native language of the homeless or foster child’s educational rights holder. In the case of a foster child or youth, the written notice shall also be provided to the foster child’s attorney and county social worker. If the student is an Indian child, as defined in Section 224.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the written notice

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shall also be provided to the Indian child's tribal social worker and, if applicable, county social worker.

The written notice shall be provided no less than five (5) school days before the effective date of the pupil's removal. The notice shall include the following:

1. The School's intent to remove the pupil, as it is not in their best interest to remain in the independent study program.
2. The opportunity of the parent/guardian or adult student to request a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer within a reasonable number of days, at which the student has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the pupil has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate. The parent/guardian, adult student, educational rights holder, attorney, county social worker, or tribal social worker as applicable must submit a request for the hearing prior to the effective date of the pupil's removal.
3. If the parent/guardian or adult student requests a hearing:
 - a. The pupil shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until the School issues a final decision.
 - b. If as a result of the hearing the student is disenrolled, notice will be sent to the student's last known district of residence within thirty (30) calendar days. The School shall, upon request, provide that school district with a copy of the cumulative record of the pupil, including report cards or a transcript of grades, and health information.
 - c. A hearing decision not to disenroll the student does not prevent the Charter School from making a similar recommendation in the future should student attendance/participation issues occur or re-occur.
4. If no hearing is requested, the pupil shall be removed from the school on the effective date listed on the notice.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR PUPILS WITH A SECTION 504 PLAN OR IEP

A Student Support Team Meetings may be held for pupils that have a Section 504 Plan or an IEP (as applicable). The meetings may be conducted to determine:

1. Whether the student's failure to meet attendance and participation requirements was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the student's disability; or
2. Whether the student's failure to meet attendance and participation requirements was the direct result of the School's failure to implement the section 504 Plan or IEP (as applicable).

If the answer to either (1) or (2), above, is yes, then the attendance/participation issues are considered a manifestation of the pupil's disability. The School will take immediate steps to remedy those deficiencies and will continue to follow applicable state and federal laws to ensure that the pupil is offered a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

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If the answer to either (1) or (2), above, is no, then the pupil may be removed from the independent study program consistent with the procedures in this Policy applicable to students without disabilities.

This meeting may be combined with the Evaluation meeting, referenced above, at the discretion of the Charter School.

The School shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Upon involuntary removal of a student, the School shall provide prior written notice to the student and parent/guardian in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, and as outlined in the School's special education policies and procedures.