



Independent Study School of Excellence Award

July 1, 2026

Dear Alternative Ed Community,

On behalf of the CCEA Plus Board, I'm excited to introduce a new recognition opportunity for Independent Study schools and programs across California. This pilot recognition award is designed to celebrate schools and programs that demonstrate excellence, innovation and a strong commitment to serving students through high-quality independent study practices.

Independent Study programs play an essential role in providing flexible, student-centered learning options for diverse learners throughout the state. This new recognition by CCEA Plus will highlight programs that are creating meaningful opportunities for students, supporting academic success, building strong systems of support and developing practices that other schools can learn from.

We encourage Independent Study schools and programs throughout California to apply and share the impactful work they are doing for students, families and communities. As this recognition continues to grow, CCEA Plus hopes to elevate promising practices, celebrate dedicated educators and strengthen the network of Independent Study programs across the state.

As this is the pilot year for the Independent Study School/Program Recognition Award, applicants will play an important role in helping shape the future of this recognition process. Feedback, participation and shared examples of effective practices will help CCEA Plus continue to refine the award, ensure it reflects the unique strengths of Independent Study programs and build a meaningful recognition that supports schools across California for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jerry Abrica

Jerry Abrica, President