



# Wildfire and Windstorm Resources for L.A. County Schools & Communities

January 2025

## For School Districts:

- **Request for Allowance of Attendance Due to Emergency Conditions ([Form J-13A](#))**

To help schools avoid funding losses due to closures caused by wildfires, the California Department of Education (CDE) is encouraging charter schools, school districts and county offices of education to submit J-13A waiver requests. J-13A waivers are used in cases of emergency school closures to prevent the loss of attendance-based funding. More information can be found on the [CDE Form J-13A web page](#).

- **School Outdoor Air Quality Activity Recommendations**

The CDE released updated [School Outdoor Air Quality Activity Recommendations](#) (PDF) last year, providing local educational agencies with resources to make informed decisions about conducting school activities and closures based on local air quality conditions when communities are impacted by wildfire smoke.

- **California School Emergency Reporting System**

The School Emergency Reporting System (SERS) web application is utilized by the CDE to track school statuses during disasters. [Please log on](#) to report new emergency incidents and update your educational agency's situational status.

- **[Initial Damage Estimate \(IDE\)](#)**

To claim damage and recovery reimbursements, please capture images, create reports, and maintain expense documentation for all activities. In alignment with the County of Los Angeles Emergency Operations Plan, please provide an IDE by noon on **Monday, Jan. 13, 2025**. Review the [IDE Fact Sheet](#) as reference.

- **[Independent Study Updates and Toolkit](#)**

Reminder regarding recent changes to requirements related to independent study programs (as per Senate Bill (SB) 153, effective June 29, 2024, and SB 114 from the previous year).

Highlights include:

1. **Attendance Counting:** Average daily attendance (ADA) now counts from a student's first day of independent study, rather than after three consecutive days.
2. **Program Duration:** "Short-term" independent study is now defined as 15 school days or fewer, while "long-term" is 16 school days or more.
3. **Written Agreements:** For short-term programs, again between 1-15 days - agreements can be signed anytime during the school year. For long-term programs, agreements must be signed before the program starts.
4. **ADA Computation:** Pupil work product now includes time spent in asynchronous instruction, documented by a computer program.

SB 114 mandates that in emergencies, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must offer independent study within 10 days of school closure and reopen for in-person instruction as soon as possible. LEAs must also maintain emergency plans and submit Form J-13A for ADA credit during closures.

LEAs are advised to update their policies and consult legal counsel regarding these changes.

- **[EASE - Employee Assistance Service for Education](#)**

A reminder to EASE member districts: We are available to help you during these difficult times. Our services are free, confidential and 24/7. Professional counselors are ready to help.

Call the EASE Hotline for assistance: **800-882-1341**.