

## Homework

Homework is defined as any work or task planned by the teacher to be completed by the student outside of the regular classroom without immediate and direct teacher involvement for the purpose of advancement of knowledge as an extension to classroom work. Numerous studies show that the amount of time students spend actively engaged in learning a skill directly affects their ability to master it.

The Committee also recognizes the importance of having opportunities for growth and development provided by families for their children outside school hours. In an effort to balance academic excellence, recreational activities, family life and personal demands, as well as the health of students, the following guidelines for homework are presented.

### General Guidelines for All Levels

The importance of academic studies must be given priority when making personal or family commitments and planning extracurricular activities. Students are responsible for planning ahead, managing their workloads, and developing good time management skills. When giving assignments, teachers shall keep in mind that students during the after school hours generally must balance academic responsibilities, extracurricular activities, employment, family commitments and personal well-being. Therefore, they should strive to avoid work overloads.

Two practices should guide teachers as they report and/or grade homework. The teachers (1) should provide accurate and understandable descriptions of that which is to be learned from the homework and (2) use practices to enhance, not hinder, teaching and learning (consider these examples: eliminating giving zeros for late/missing work and/or stop averaging grades and/or develop practices that provide incentives for doing homework rather than punishments for not doing it). Guskey, T. (1994, October P.17) Educational Leadership.

Reasons for assigning homework are as follows:

- A. Homework communicates the high expectations that schools hold for their students. The best schools have confidence that their students can and will achieve. Assigning meaningful homework is one way of letting students develop confidence in their own abilities. Its effectiveness depends upon careful planning and timely and appropriate feedback by the teacher well as supportive parental involvement.
- B. Homework helps families become involved with education. We know that for school to do the best possible job educating each student, parents and schools must work together. Homework is one way parents can make a meaningful contribution to helping their sons and daughters

achieve. When students see that their parents think education is important, their performance improves.

- C. Homework helps students develop self-discipline and organizational skills. Through homework, students learn how to manage their time. They learn the importance of setting goals, working to achieve those goals and learn to be responsible for their own achievements. All these skills will help them continue to be successful throughout their lives.

Guidelines for Homework at Specific Levels:

Implied in this policy is 20 minutes per night of students' reading.

Kindergarten:	Twenty minutes of homework.
Grades 1-4:	Thirty minutes in grade 1 to a maximum of sixty minutes in grade 4 for all subjects combined.
Grades 5-9:	A maximum of two hours per night for all subjects combined.
Grades 10-12:	A maximum of three hours per night for all subjects combined.

Long Term Assignments:

So as to train a student to meet both short- and long-term deadlines that he or she will meet throughout life, as well as to enhance the in-depth learning process, long-term assignments, such as book reports, notebooks, research papers, special course projects and electives may at times add to these limits at all grade levels, and especially at the high school level. Students are responsible for managing long-term assignments, in addition to daily homework, so that they may be completed within the general time guidelines contained in this policy.

Summer Homework:

It is a goal of the District for each student to become a lifelong learner. In support of that goal, the District establishes reasonable summer requirements for all students.

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