

Homework

The School Board recognizes the importance of students completing meaningful and quality homework directly related to what is being taught and learned in the classroom.

Schools in which homework is routinely assigned and assessed tend to have higher achieving students. Additionally, assignments completed at home foster increased student achievement, independence of thought and action, and personal responsibility for learning and serve as a vital link between school and home.

Accordingly, homework standards and procedures shall be established by each school's administration and faculty, with input from parents and the community. To ensure that this policy is fully and consistently implemented, such standards and procedures shall be incorporated into the school's School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Homework may be used for preparation, practice, extension of classroom time/concepts, and the fostering of creativity, and should routinely reflect efforts designed to achieve mastery of the student performance standards as approved by the State Board of Education. As students advance through school, it is reasonable to expect that the amount of homework they must complete will increase. The amount of homework assigned should relate directly to the curriculum content for the appropriate grade level and to the individual needs of students.

If the amount of homework assigned to students becomes unreasonable/excessive/inadequate, or if the relative grading weight assigned to homework is unreasonable, it is the Principal's responsibility to correct the situation.

MAJOR PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK

- a. Reinforce principles, skills, concepts, and information taught in the classroom.
- b. Be meaningful, appropriate to the ability and maturity level of students, well explained, and clearly understood by students.
- c. Stimulate creative, logical, and critical thought.
- d. Provide for open-ended assignments that encourage creativity and higher order thinking skills.
- e. Teach students self-discipline and self-motivation regarding their responsibilities and efforts required to complete assignments.
- f. Promote independent, in-depth study of the chosen topics.
- g. Provide opportunities for broad enrichment activities.
- h. Promote the use of time management and organizational skills.

Teachers Are Expected To:

- a. Set clear and rigorous standards for the quality of work for all students.
- b. Create an effective system for communicating homework guidelines for parents in accordance with standards and procedures established by the school administration and faculty with input from parents and the community.
- c. Collect homework when due; assess and provide timely and appropriate feedback to students regarding the completion of assignments and the mastery of standards.

Homework

- d. Coordinate projects so that all students have access to research and resource materials, including textbooks.
- e. Coordinate homework assignments with other teachers so that students do not receive excessive assignments.
- f. Assign homework in those areas which have been taught or are academically challenging and appropriate to the student's level of competence and which promote the student's intellectual growth.
- g. Design quality homework which is novel, varied, authentic, and tied to mastery of student performance standards.
- h. Allow for varied learning styles by including choices in types of assignments (e.g. flexible assignments which allow several days to complete).
- i. Provide students with a reasonable estimate of the amount of time necessary to complete each homework assignment.
- j. Provide specific written explanation of long-term homework assignments so that the requirements, expectations and timelines are clearly understood by the students.
- k. Provide students the opportunity to ask questions to clarify homework assignments.
- l. Evaluate group projects based upon individual student participation and group process and allow time in class for individuals and groups to work on projects.
- m. Be sensitive to cultural and societal differences and expectations vis-à-vis the assignment and assessment of homework (e.g., impact of religious holidays, field trips, family emergencies, State and Local Testing Dates).

Students Are Expected To:

- a. Understand that homework is part of the course requirements.
- b. Make certain that homework assignments are understood before leaving class.
- c. Complete and submit homework assignments in a timely manner.
- d. Complete (and make up) homework assignments conscientiously and in accordance with the teacher's directions.

Parents Are Expected To:

- a. Support teaching and learning by providing time and a suitable environment for completing homework.
- b. Remind students that homework is their responsibility.
- c. Guide or assist in homework when unusual difficulties arise; but never do the homework for the student.
- d. Communicate with the teacher(s) regarding homework expectations and assignments, as needed.

ADOPTED: August 2, 2001

REVISED: July 23, 2014