

Education Programs

Student Homework

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define how student homework is used to enhance learning.

II. General Statement of Policy

The district recognizes regular purposeful homework is an essential component of the instructional process. Student homework is an integral factor in fostering academic achievement and in extending school learning into the home. Homework is beneficial and important to a student's educational program.

III. Definition

Homework refers to the tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be completed during nonschool hours or independent study time during the school day.

Homework is one of many learning activities in which students engage. The purposes for student homework include:

- Assisting students in becoming independent learners by preparing them for new content or elaborating on content previously introduced
- Extending learning and/or providing practice in applying concepts presented in the classroom
- Creating and stimulating interest on the part of the student
- Providing opportunities for enrichment
- Aiding in the mastery of skills
- Fostering parent/guardian-student involvement in education

Homework must be realistic in length and difficulty, given the students' abilities to work independently, while recognizing that the amount of homework will increase as the student progresses through the grades. The parameters of the homework include:

- All homework shall have a purpose, which should be identified and articulated, and focus on quality versus quantity.
- All homework must be assessed by the teacher. Daily homework assignments will not have a major impact on the student's final grade.

- The homework should be able to be completed by the student with minimal parent/guardian assistance, unless the parent/guardian support is part of the homework (i.e. reading to parent/guardian, practicing math facts).
- The school district shall suggest a homework range of time to guide teachers and families (see Appendix I).

IV. Responsibilities

- A. School Site – Each school site will conduct regular discussion across grade levels and departments to reflect on the consistency of applying the district’s student homework policy. This would include:
1. Communicating the homework policy to families, including the purpose of homework, the amount of homework to expect, consequences for not completing homework, and a description of the types of parental involvement that are expected or acceptable
 2. Attempting to limit the amount of homework on Wednesday evenings or other sacred days due to family commitments with faith-based services or observations
 3. Pacing homework assignments among classes to avoid “homework overload” on a given night
- B. Teachers – Teachers are responsible for assigning meaningful homework for the purpose of enrichment, mastery of skills and/or completion of daily assignments. The teacher has the responsibility of determining the nature and the length of the homework assignment, with the understanding that the students have the ability and skills to complete the work. The teacher shall assess all homework.
- C. Students – Students are to complete the homework in a timely manner. If a student does not understand the homework assignment, he/she should feel free to contact the teacher for further support and assistance.
- D. Parents/Guardians – Parents/guardians are to monitor their student’s learning activities at home and to assist them as necessary. Parents/guardians should provide a place and atmosphere that is conducive to studying and give encouragement to the student to do their best work. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the teacher, and if necessary the principal, when they have concerns with a student’s homework.

Appendix I

SUGGESTED RANGE OF TIME FOR HOMEWORK

The school district suggests that the average time for students to be engaged in homework should begin with 10 minutes per night, per grade level. As some students require more time to complete homework, the suggested range of total minutes per day is:

- Primary: 10–30 minutes
- Upper Elementary: 40–60 minutes
- Middle School: 60–90 minutes
- High School: 90–120 minutes

Students taking multiple Advanced Placement courses should expect to spend additional time on homework.

The administration will work with teachers and families to monitor the suggested ranges and offer changes in the ranges, as appropriate.