

## **Board of Education Policy**

### **HOMEWORK - REGULATION**

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Guidelines have been developed concerning homework given on each grade level. A teacher should consider the following guidelines not as hard and fast rules, but rather as a suggestion so that difficulties with regard to homework may be eliminated. Teachers are expected to assign homework as an extension of the classroom experiences. The guidelines contain five major areas as follows:

#### **Purpose of Homework**

In all grades this should attempt to (a) reinforce classroom instruction through practice or drill, (b) prepare or motivate a student for a new area of study, and (c) allow for individual creativity and interest when a student wishes to work on a project. Teachers should be constantly testing the type of homework given to check the time that various students take to do these assignments. Make allowances for individual differences among the students to establish the length of their assignments. Please keep in mind, however, that the teacher should take considerable care to stay within the general time limits outlined, and that homework should never be given as punishment.

#### **Length of Homework**

The teacher has the responsibility to individualize homework assignments as deemed appropriate by the teacher and as necessary to meet individual student needs. The teacher has the flexibility to assign homework as indicated by the maximum minutes per grade level below inclusive of nightly reading, trimester and/or content specific project work, and online remediation or enrichment but not inclusive of instrumental practice.

Kindergarten homework will not exceed a maximum of 15 minutes.

Grade 1 homework will not exceed a maximum of 25 minutes.

Grade 2 homework will not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes.

Grade 3 homework will not exceed a maximum of 40 minutes.

Grade 4 homework will not exceed a maximum of 50 minutes.

Grade 5 homework will not exceed a maximum of 60 minutes.

Homework assignments required (independent) reading assignments, instrumental music practice, trimester and/or content specific project work, and “optional” projects will not be assigned during vacation, recess, and holiday periods to students in grades Kindergarten through five.

Middle School/Secondary Grades: Total homework for secondary students should vary based on student’s course selection. Students should be cognizant of timely completion and submission of assignments. The teacher has the responsibility to individualize homework assignments as deemed appropriate by the teacher and as necessary to meet individual student needs.

*Miller Place Union Free School District*  
*Miller Place, New York 11764*  
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**Parents' Role**

A parent should:

1. Provide a study area free of distractions and with good lighting.
2. Ask questions about the content of student homework.
3. Give requested assistance, but letting the student do his or her own work.
4. Avoid undue pressure; and
5. Help create a "homework habit" at the same time each night.

Teachers should discourage parents from being actively engaged in "teaching" assignments to students. This does not infer, however, that a parent should not listen to spelling words, critically listen to a speech, etc.

**Collection of Homework**

As a general rule, teachers should personally check all written homework assignments.

A note from the parent may excuse a student from completing an assignment in the case of extenuating circumstances.

Note: Music assignments are given each evening and are in the form of practice on the student's instrument. The most meaningful way to complete the music assignment is to practice for short (5-6 minute) intervals. This provides an excellent way for a student to break up the one-hour assignments in the other subject areas.

**Penalties for Not Doing Assignments**

Before a teacher penalizes a student for not doing the homework, the teacher should take extreme care not to make the penalty too severe. One step that should be taken is to investigate the home conditions of the child not submitting homework. This can be extremely revealing and on occasion may completely change the mind of a teacher concerning the laxity of a student who has not submitted a given assignment. Please be aware that homework is also an opportunity for the home and school to better understand each other's aim.

***Adopted:*** 04/18/1996  
***Reviewed:*** 05/19/2004 12/10/2014 04/29/2015 05/25/2016 02/16/2022  
***Revised:*** 06/09/2004 01/28/2015 05/27/2015 06/15/2016 03/30/2022