

Homework Policy**Types of Homework:**

In order to have a homework policy that reflects best educational practices, it is essential to recognize that the term homework encompasses many different experiences designed to support student learning. These different experiences share the commonality, that they are completed outside the classroom environment, hence, the term homework. Below are descriptions of these various learning experiences.

- **Preparation**

Students engage in assignments designed to support upcoming learning in the classroom. One example is the “flipped classroom”, which allows students to use an online learning tool to gain information outside of the classroom and then, the next day in the classroom apply the concept(s).

- **Formative Work**

The completion of formative work provides ongoing checks of the student’s understanding, which guides instruction. It is informative for the teacher and student as it provides “ongoing feedback on learning and provides information to guide and improve teaching and learning.” (McTighe) In order for a teacher to measure student progress toward mastery of competencies, formative work is used to gauge student understanding and to provide feedback for further learning. Formative work can take many different designs; some examples of formative work, include, practicing concepts from the day’s lesson, writing a paragraph in response to a particular text, and completing a task developed to pre-assess a student’s prior knowledge before introducing a new learning topic.

- **Summative Work**

Summative work, which is more commonly referred to as summative assessments, measures a student’s ability to apply the concepts, skills, and knowledge of a course competency at a certain point in time. Summative assessments/work is “periodic and culminating assessments that provide information to measure the student achievement level at the conclusion of a learning cycle.” (McTighe) Summative assessments/work are rigorous and include a variety of opportunities to demonstrate depth of knowledge. Summative work is: used to make a decision about a student’s level of learning, completed at the end of a period of instruction for progress reporting, used only after students have been given repeated opportunities to practice learning goals and competencies; and can include, but not limited to, formal demonstration of knowledge, projects, performance tasks, essays and written assessments.

- **Key Tenets to Ensure Quality Homework Practices**

In addition to defining the types of student work that makeup homework, the School District has identified through educational research key tenets to ensure quality homework practices.

- As each student’s learning needs are different, the type and amount of homework is left to the discretion of the student’s teacher.
- In order for homework to be meaningful, it requires that students understand the purpose of the assignment. Therefore, teachers will communicate to students the purpose of the assigned work.
- An essential component of the learning process is feedback; therefore, students will receive teacher feedback on their demonstration of learning of the academic and personal competencies aligned to their assignments.

- **Grading**

All assigned homework is important to supporting student learning. As there are different purposes for the work completed outside the classroom, there are different ways this work influences a student's academic and personal competency grades, which are outlined below.

- Homework that is used for preparation or is formative in nature will not be factored into a student's academic grade.
- Homework considered summative in nature will be factored into the student's academic grade. The teacher will explain to students how such assignments influence the academic grade.
- The responsibility and quality demonstrated by a student on completing all types of homework assignments may be factored into a student's personal competency grade. The teacher will explain to students how such assignments influence the personal competency grade.

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