

## Education Programs

### Student Homework

#### I. Purpose

This policy defines how student homework is used to enhance learning.

#### II. General Statement of Policy

The school 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 of Homework

For purposes of this policy, "homework" refers to the tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be completed during non-school hours or independent study time during the school day.

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

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

B. Homework will 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:

1. All homework will have an identified and articulated purpose and focus on quality versus quantity.
2. All homework will be assessed by the teacher. Daily homework assignments will not have a major impact on the student's final grade.
3. 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).
4. The school district will 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 discussions across grade levels and departments to reflect on the consistency of applying the school district’s student homework policy. This discussion 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 parent/guardian involvement that are expected or acceptable.
  2. Pacing homework assignments among classes to avoid “homework overload” on any 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 length of the homework assignment, with the understanding that the students have the ability and skills to complete the work. The teacher will review and/or assess all homework.
- C. Students – Students are to complete their homework in a timely manner. If a student does not understand the homework assignment, they should contact the teacher for further support and assistance.
- D. Parents/Guardians – Parents/guardians are to facilitate and support their student’s learning activities at home and to assist them as necessary. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the teacher, and if necessary the principal, when they have concerns with a student’s homework. and/or their student’s ability to engage in the homework in ways that ensure positive outcomes.

Policy  
adopted: 07/20/09  
revised: 08/10/20  
revised: 06/09/25

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## Appendix I

### **Suggested Range of Time for Homework**

The 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.

It is recommended that parents/guardians and/or students communicate directly with teachers if their child is or they are struggling with homework. A key indicator of struggle is that the time spent on homework is substantially out of alignment with the suggested ranges on a regular basis. There may be some days that more or less time is required. Administration will work with teachers and families to monitor the suggested ranges and offer changes in the ranges as appropriate.