

HOMEWORK

The Board of Education defines homework or extra class study as a continuation and extension of work previously reviewed and/or completed in the classroom. Homework assignments should be used as a teaching and learning strategy to provide reinforcement of the concept or practice on a principle or skill already taught; to provide real-life application of the matter in hand; and to develop appreciation for or knowledge of community resources. Homework provides excellent opportunities for developing good study habits, providing for individual differences and abilities, and encouraging self-initiative on the part of the student.

The Board encourages a balanced approach to homework, recognizing the importance of allowing time for extracurricular activities, family responsibilities, and personal interests. Homework will be assigned according to these guidelines:

- it should not be excessive in length, generally following the rule that students should spend no more than approximately 10 minutes multiplied by their grade level per night to complete all homework assignments, i.e., the “10-minute rule” (e.g., first graders should have roughly 10 minutes of homework per night, approximately 40 minutes total per night for fourth graders, reaching a maximum of up to two hours per night in total for high school seniors);
- should take into consideration students’ grade levels and ability to work independently;
- the number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments should be based on the needs of the students, taking into consideration cognitive and/or language abilities as well as their strengths and interests;
- it should be aligned to grade level standards;
- it should develop literacy, be culturally-responsive, and/or foster meaningful experiences;
- for students in the earliest grades, it should foster positive attitudes, habits, and character traits, permit appropriate parent involvement, and reinforce learning of simple skills in class;
- for students in upper elementary grades, it should play a more direct role in fostering school achievement; and
- in sixth grade and beyond, it should play an important role in improving standardized test scores, college and career readiness, and grades.

The Board of Education believes that parental involvement in students' homework is essential to making homework an integral part of the educational program. Parents are expected to encourage and monitor homework assignments and, to the extent possible, provide conditions that are conducive to their successful completion.

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