

HOMEWORK/MAKE-UP WORK

The Board of Education believes homework is an essential component in improving student learning.

The Board of Education believes this meaningful after-school activity reinforces and supports students in their efforts to successfully achieve academic standards. Homework is an integral part of an effective, well-planned instructional program.

The Board of Education believes that administrators, teachers, parents/guardians, and students share the responsibility for ensuring the success of homework in order to enhance and support the student's instructional program. Students can reinforce academic skills taught in school and learn how to, for example, conduct research effectively, develop ideas creatively, and become life-long learners.

The Superintendent shall ensure that administrators and teachers provide notification of this policy to parents/guardians and students.

Legal References:

Education Codes: 48205 Absences for personal reasons
48913 Completion of work missed by suspended pupil
48980 Parental notifications

cf. 5113 Absences and excuses

cf. 6020 Parent Involvement

Approved: 7/22/86; Revised 10/15/02

HOMEWORK/MAKE-UP WORK

Objectives

Homework shall relate directly to classroom work and be non-punitive. It should be reasonable in length to allow time for cocurricular and out-of-school activities. The objectives of homework are as follows:

1. To reinforce learning through the practice, application, integration, and extension of knowledge and skills.
2. To encourage independent learning by developing study skills, work habits, and a sense of personal responsibility.
3. To stimulate originality and creativity.
4. To prepare for classroom participation.
5. To enrich school experiences which will transfer to leisure and career-centered interests.
6. To enhance home/school communication.
7. To improve reading skills, promote literacy and develop an appreciation of reading.

Assignment of homework shall be consistent with the following guidelines:

1. In assigning work, administrators and teachers should be aware of student abilities, student needs, classroom academic standards, and family activities. Homework assignments should not place an undue burden on students and families.

Suggested times are:

Kindergarten-Early Primary grades 1-2: 20-30 minutes per day, two days per week.
Elementary grades 3,4,5: 45 minutes per day, two-four days per week.
Middle School grades 6-8: 60-90 minutes per day, four days per week.
High School grades 9-12: 90-120 minutes per day, four days per week.

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Exceptions to these guidelines may occur for special projects such as independent research, term reports, and special reading and problem-solving activities especially at the middle and high school levels. Student in honors and/or advanced placement classes can expect assignments that may exceed the guidelines. These, as well as other exceptions, shall be communicated to parents/guardians.

2. The student is responsible for the completion of homework. To successfully complete assignments, the student is expected to listen carefully to all directions in class, ask questions if the assignment is not clear, budget time wisely, maintain a schedule of study time, and turn in assignments when due. Students should use parents as a resource for completing assignments.
3. The parent/guardian is responsible for monitoring the completion of homework. This may include assisting the student to plan and schedule time, establishing an appropriate environment, participating in assignments which call for parent involvement, and maintaining consistent communication with the teacher.
4. The principal and teaching staff are responsible for establishing homework requirements consistent with these guidelines. They are expected to provide information which describes homework expectations, how homework relates to the student's grades, how parents/guardians can best help their children, and the importance of planning and organizing to meet deadlines. School planning should occur in coordinating assignments so that students do not receive an overload of homework one day and very little the next day.
5. The teacher has the responsibility to communicate and explain expectations for homework to students and parents and to monitor homework. As part of their responsibilities, teachers shall do the following:
 - Assign homework in a timely manner to allow for student questions and planning.
 - Evaluate assignments promptly.
 - Inform students of results.
 - Notify parents/guardians when students are not meeting requirements.

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6. The school shall provide families with information about resources that may be available for students either through school or within the community. For example, the media center, school websites, and after-school programs may be sources of assistance for students.

Make-up Work

The following will be communicated to students and parents/guardians:

1. Students shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during an excused absence. The teacher shall determine the assignments and tests which are reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests that the pupil missed during the absence. The student shall receive full credit if the work is turned in according to a reasonable make-up schedule as determined by the teacher.
2. Teachers are not required to provide make-up work or allow students to take tests missed because of absences which have been designated "unexcused."
3. Teachers shall require a suspended student to complete assignments and/or tests missed during the suspension period.

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