

Policy 6154: Homework/Makeup Work

The Board of Education believes that homework should serve to enhance student learning. To that end, it is the intent of the Board of Education to enact a policy that reflects both the findings of research and reflects the wishes of the community of families, teachers and students.¶

Homework is defined as a meaningful task assigned by the teacher in class for completion by the student outside school hours. The work shall enhance the regular instructional program done in the classroom.¶

The Board believes that homework includes the following:¶

1. Nightly Reading↵

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The Board believes that nightly reading is important to the success of every child. Therefore, teachers should assign reading each night during the school week. The reading may be books of the child's own choosing or books assigned by the teacher.↵

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In addition, the Board encourages children to read on the weekends, as well as vacation and summer time.↵

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2. Other Daily Homework↵

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The District does not require teachers to give daily homework. Daily homework, if needed and required by the teacher, may consist of basic skills practice including such items as spelling, writing, sight words, multiplication tables and math facts.↵

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Long-Term Projects↵

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Long-term projects may take the place of, or be assigned in addition to, daily homework. Teachers will receive support in designing relevant, challenging and differentiated homework assignments that reinforce classroom and district learning objectives.↵

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3. Additional Guidelines¶

The Board expects staff to be knowledgeable about effective uses of homework. Teachers will receive support in designing relevant, challenging and differentiated homework assignments that reinforce classroom and district learning objectives.¶

Other than long-term projects, homework shall not be assigned on the weekends.¶

~~Timely feedback on homework allows teachers the opportunity to assess and communicate mastery of concepts to students and parents.¶¶~~

~~No homework shall be required over breaks; students requesting optional homework shall receive it at the discretion of the teacher.¶¶~~

~~Students will not be given detention, study hall, or otherwise be kept out of opportunities for physical activity, including recess on a regular basis, as the result of incomplete homework assignments.¶¶~~

~~In general, students should be able to complete homework independently.¶¶~~

~~When a student sees multiple teachers during the school day, the Board expects teacher coordination with regard to student workload.¶¶~~

~~If a parent or guardian feels that homework is not serving their child's learning or is significantly affecting family life, the Board encourages the parent to confer with the teacher. Issues falling into this realm may include, but are not limited to, time spent on homework and amount or type of homework. During the meeting, the teacher and parent or guardian may determine whether adjustments are appropriate. If issues are not resolved with the teacher, the parent is encouraged to meet with the principal.¶¶~~

~~Make up Work¶¶~~

~~Students who miss schoolwork because of an excused absence~~Governing Board recognizes that meaningful homework assignments can be a valuable extension of student learning time, provide enrichment, and assist students in developing good study habits. Homework and/or makeup work shall be assigned when necessary to support classroom lessons, enable students to complete unfinished assignments, or review and apply academic content for better understanding.

Students may use technology to assist with homework and/or makeup work in conducting research, correcting grammar and spelling, and learning from educational applications such as tutoring systems and language learning applications, as specified in Board Policy 5131.9 - Academic Honesty and Board Policy 6163.4 - Student Use of Technology.

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with school administrators and teachers to develop and regularly review guidelines for the assignment of homework and the related responsibilities of students, staff, and parents/guardians.

Homework assignments shall be reasonable in length and appropriate to the grade level and course. The **Governing** Board expects that the number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments will increase with the grade level and the maturity of students. Teachers shall assign homework only as necessary to fulfill academic goals and reinforce current instruction.

As needed, teachers may receive training in designing relevant homework assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives and inspire students' interests.

Although on-time completion of homework is important to maintain academic progress, the **Governing** Board recognizes that students learn at different rates. Students shall receive credit for work that is completed late in order to encourage their continued learning.

Age-appropriate instruction may be given to help students allocate their time wisely, meet their deadlines, learn to work independently, and develop good personal study habits.

At the beginning of the school year, teachers shall communicate homework expectations to students and their parents/guardians. Homework guidelines shall also be included in student and/or parent/guardian handbooks. These communications shall include the manner in which homework relates to achievement of academic standards and course content, the impact of homework assignments on students' grades, any school resources and programs that are available to provide homework support, and ways in which parents/guardians may appropriately assist their children.

Although it is the student's responsibility to undertake assignments independently, parents/guardians may serve as a resource and are encouraged to ensure that their child's homework assignments are completed. Students may also work with other students and use approved outside resources as directed by the teacher.

To further support students' homework efforts, the Superintendent or designee may establish and maintain electronic forums, provide access to school library media centers and technological resources, and/or provide before-school and after-school programs where students can receive homework assistance from teachers, volunteers, and/or student tutors. The **Governing** Board encourages the Superintendent or designee to design class and transportation schedules that will enable students to make use of homework support services.

Teachers shall review all completed homework to assess the student's understanding of academic content and shall provide timely feedback to the student.

If a student repeatedly fails to complete homework, the teacher shall notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible so that corrective action can be taken prior to the release of any final grades or report cards.

Makeup Work

Students who are absent from school shall be given the opportunity to complete all assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided. As determined by the teacher, the assignments and tests shall be ~~reasonably~~ equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time, **which is communicated in advance to the students.**

~~With the exception of an independent study, students who miss schoolwork because of unexcused absences shall be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Teachers shall assign such makeup work as necessary to ensure academic progress, not as a punitive measure.¶~~

~~Site Procedures¶~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each principal informs teachers and parents of the homework policy and administrative regulations at least once per year at the beginning of the school year. The Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians that no student may have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence when missed assignments and tests are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notification shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)~~

Suspended Students

When a parent/guardian of a student who has been suspended for two or more school days requests homework that the student would otherwise have been assigned, the student's teacher shall provide such homework. If a homework assignment is requested and is turned in to the teacher by the student either upon the student's return from suspension or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher, whichever is later, and is not graded before the end of the academic term, the homework assignment shall not be included in the calculation of the student's overall grade in the class. (Education Code 48913.5)

The teacher of any class from which a student is suspended may require the student to complete any assignments and tests missed during the suspension. (Education Code 48913)