



# Homework Policy Review

Presentation to School Committee  
April 12, 2023

# Context



- Culmination of a multi-year effort
- Many stakeholders involved:
  - Students
  - Staff
  - Parents and Caregivers
  - Administrators
- Opportunity to align practices with our values and with the research on “best practices” for academic success
- Opportunity to affirm importance of well-being

# Guiding Principles

The focus of homework is learning

- Learning content
- Learning self-management skills
- Learning to communicate with others

Ensuring student learning is a shared responsibility between students, staff and families

Learning should be balanced with other important needs and activities

Homework policy linked to other policies, specifically # 291 on Religious Observance



# Definition

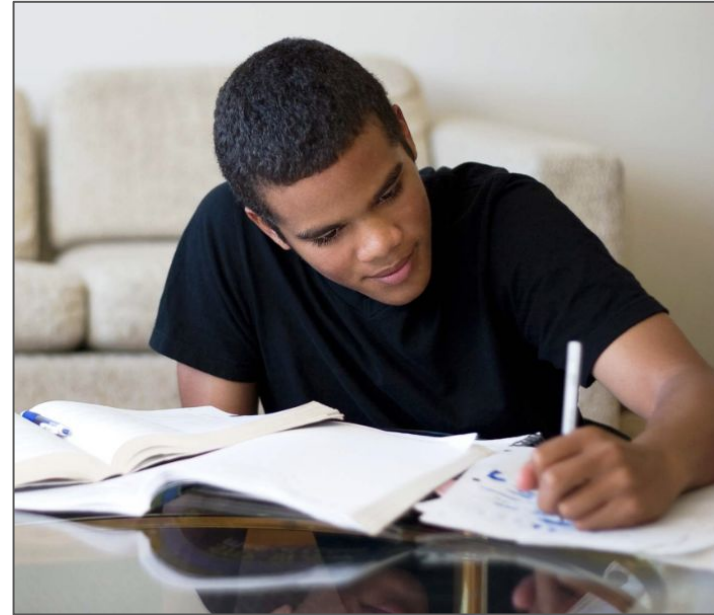
*Homework is defined as tasks that are assigned by teachers to be completed by students outside of class time, including work done using pencil and paper and/or digital tools. These tasks include, but are not limited to: skills practice; reading; viewing of video content; studying or preparation for quizzes or tests; creating written, audio, or visual content; and completion of reports or projects.*

**On any given night, students may be assigned homework for:**

- Practice
- Preparation
- Study
- Projects
- Reading

# A Summary of the Research

- Homework is most effective for middle/high school students.
- Different homework tasks serve different purposes. Guidance for both short-term and long term projects is included in our policy.
- In order to become self-directed, students should play a role in setting goals and making choices about the skills practice they need.



# Current Practices Affirmed

- Guideline re: time allocation for students in grades 1-5 still holds
- No change for time in Grades 6-8
- We expect different students in the same grade will take different amounts of time to complete the same task- and that's okay.
- Helping students to become successful is a shared responsibility.



- Grade 1: 15 minutes Monday-Thursday
- Grade 2: 20 minutes Monday-Thursday
- Grade 3: 30 minutes Monday-Thursday
- Grade 4: 40 minutes Monday-Thursday
- Grade 5: 50 minutes Monday-Friday
- Grades 6-8: 60-90 minutes Monday-Friday
- Grades 9-10: 20 minutes per course Monday-Friday
- Grades 11-12: 25 minutes per course Monday-Friday

Advanced Placement-To stay on pace will most likely require greater amount of time

# Changes Within the Policy

- Grades 9-12 included, making this a policy that applies to students in grades 1-12
- Acknowledges the need for balance and affirms the importance of family time, religious and cultural observances
- Includes a “No homework” calendar
- Updated to reflect use of technology tools



# Key Messages

- Regular skills practice leads to academic success, so ALL students will be expected to complete homework.
- Students, educators and families have different needs, so partnership and ongoing, two-way communication is key.
- Educators will offer flexibility while still holding students accountable for completing their work.



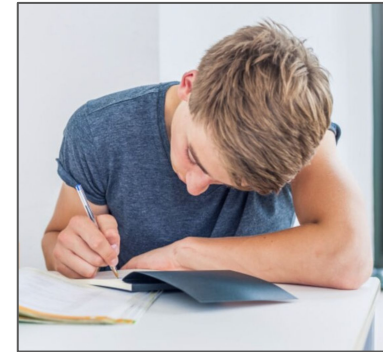
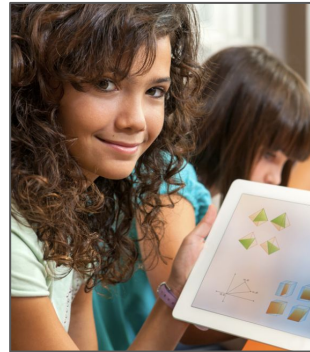
## THE GOLDILOCKS PRINCIPLE





# Notes on Implementation

- District leaders will clearly communicate homework expectations, the “no homework” calendar, and reaffirm the related policy providing accommodations for religious observances.
- Ongoing, two-way communication between educators, students and families is expected and encouraged.
- Families should communicate with the teacher to seek assistance or to request an extension of a homework deadline if their child(ren) are struggling to manage homework. As a student becomes older and more mature, the parent/caregiver is encouraged to have their child communicate with their teacher about their situation.





Questions?