

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

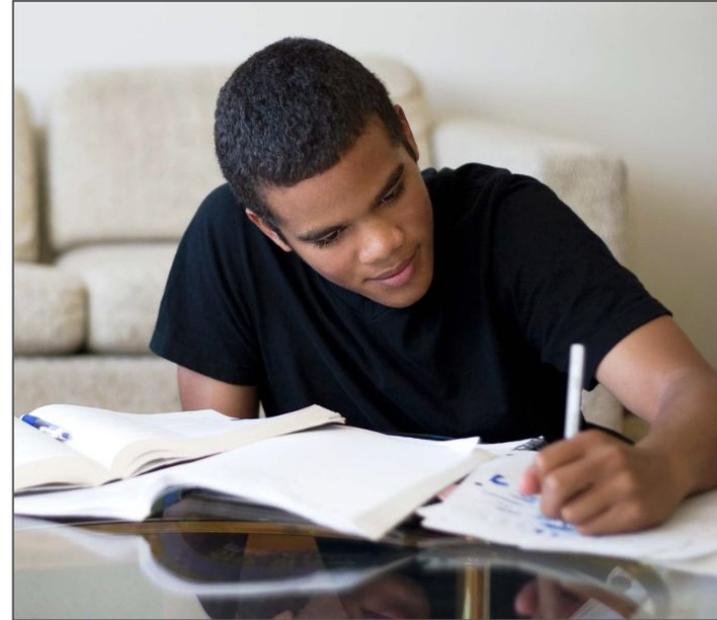
Homework is defined as tasks that are assigned by teachers to be completed by students outside of class time, including work done using pencil and paper and/or digital tools. These tasks include, but are not limited to: skills practice; reading; viewing of video content; studying or preparation for quizzes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

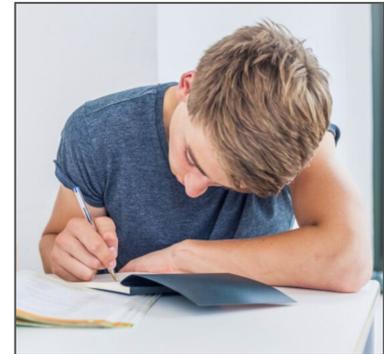


THE GOLDILOCKS PRINCIPLE



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?