

Homework Regulations - 3135R

Homework

Homework is the assignment of out-of-class tasks that are designed to enhance or extend learning activities conducted in the classroom. Homework assignments are:

- Practice assignments that are designed to reinforce newly acquired skills or knowledge. Students should be able to complete practice assignments with little or no assistance from parents. These assignments are most effective when evaluated by the teacher and matched to the ability of the individual student.
- Preparation assignments that are intended to provide background information for new learning. These assignments may include reading, research, collecting materials, and gathering or organizing information before a class discussion or demonstration.
- Extension assignments that are designed to encourage and or develop learning by emphasizing student growth through individual or group activities. These assignments are frequently long-term, continuing projects that parallel class work and require students to apply previous learning.

Teacher Responsibility and Grading

Homework should be planned and assigned specifically for the purpose of enhancing or extending learning. Every reasonable effort should be made to design quality assignments and avoid assignments based upon the quantity of work. Key teacher responsibilities include:

- Helping students understand the relationship between homework and classwork.
- Ensuring homework assignments are timely, clear, meaningful, and appropriate.
- Ensuring students understand how homework will be evaluated.
- Ensuring students receive appropriate feedback on all homework assignments.
- Ensuring homework represents no more than 10% of progress report, report card and final mark grades for Kindergarten through fifth grade students.
- Ensuring homework represents no more than 15% of progress report, report card and final mark grades for sixth through eighth grade students.
- Ensuring homework represents no more than 20% of progress report, report card and final mark grades for students in high school (to include high school courses taught at the middle schools).

Average Maximum Homework Times

The amount of time needed to complete homework will vary somewhat because students are individuals with a range of natural academic talent, parental support and the ability to focus. A small percentage of students may exceed these average maximum times because of personal characteristics like the ability to focus or their level of interest in particular assignments or activities. With the above in mind, the average amount of homework should not exceed:

- Grades Kindergarten through 2nd – 30 minutes per day for five days each week
- Grades 3rd through 5th – 60 minutes per day for five days each week
- Grades 6th through 8th – 90 minutes per day for five days each week
- Grades 9th through 13th – 120 minutes per day for five days each week

Homework assignments should be coordinated to fall within the maximum time requirement when several teachers work with the same student. These guidelines represent the average maximum time across all classes or courses during the academic semester or year.

These regulations are designed, in part, to assist the school system in moving toward standards-based grading. Standards-based grading is grounded in the student's mastery of content and skills rather than the amount of time spent doing academic work.