

Homework is recognized and encouraged as an extremely valuable activity and as an appropriate extension of classroom instruction. Homework provides excellent opportunities for developing good study habits, providing for individual differences and abilities, and encouraging self-initiative on the part of the student. Homework is never to be given as punishment.

Homework assignments should be based on work which has been taught previously. The student must understand all aspects of the work and the purpose for doing it. He/she should not be given work for which he/she does not have proper foundation and a thorough understanding.

Homework assignments are to be geared to the students' ability, with the understanding that praise for progress, no matter how little, is essential to the student's academic achievement and self-esteem.

Homework assignments are left to the sound professional judgment of the teacher, who will interpret the needs of each child. Guidelines for the approximate length of time to be spent on homework are to be developed by the Superintendent of Schools.

Teachers are cautioned to avoid overloading students with excessively lengthy homework assignments or with overly brief and empty assignments. Planning homework assignments should be given as much care as the planning of any other aspect of a lesson. An assignment important enough to be done must be considered worthy of teacher evaluation.

Homework shall be assigned according to these guidelines:

- Homework should be a properly planned part of the curriculum extending and reinforcing the learning experience of the school.
- Homework should help children learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills, experience in data gathering and integration of knowledge, and an opportunity to remediate learning problems.
- Homework should help develop the student's sense of responsibility by providing an opportunity for the exercise of independent work and judgment.
- The number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments should be based on the abilities, activities, and needs of the student. However, the grade given for the homework is dependent on the student's performance.
- As a valid educational tool, homework should be clearly assigned and its product carefully and promptly evaluated.

Teachers should communicate with parents concerning homework and the teacher's expectations. Parents and teacher must form a team to promote the best learning environment for the child.

The Board of Education believes that parental involvement in students' homework is essential to making homework an integral part of the educational program. Parents are expected to

encourage and monitor homework assignments and, to the extent possible, provide conditions that are conducive to their successful completion.

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