

Instruction

Homework/Make-Up Work

Homework

Homework is an integral part of the educational program. To be effective, homework must be properly designed, carefully planned, and appropriately geared to the development of individual students. Homework should be assigned for the following reasons.

1. To improve, reinforce, and extend skills that have been taught.
2. To help students become independent learners.
3. To provide the opportunity for creative work.
4. To develop responsibility for completing an assigned task and returning it to school.
5. To foster initiative.
6. To afford a way for parents to acquaint themselves with the school program and their own children's educational progress.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures

Policy adopted: June 26, 2006

EAST HAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
East Hampton, Connecticut

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The points covered in this procedure will be distributed in the fall to parents. Teachers may add additional comments to this statement about their specific homework requirements as long as these are within the district guidelines.

In order to assure that homework assignments will occur on a regular and continuous basis through the grades, and to assure that consideration is given for worthwhile non-school activities, the following flexible guidelines are established:

- Grades K-4 15-40 Minutes (3-5 times per week)
- Grades 5-7 10-30 Minutes per academic subject varying with ability level and course load (3-5 times per week)
- Grades 8-12 15-45 Minutes per academic subject varying with ability level and course load (3-5 times per week)

Parents should discuss any consistent departure from these flexible guidelines with the child's teacher and, if necessary, the Principal of the school.

Homework is defined as an out-of-class assignment. Occasionally, incomplete in-school work may be finished at home. If a student is unable to finish daily work often, the student's use of time or the length of classroom assignments needs to be re-examined and parents should contact the school. Teachers and parents should be aware of the time students are using to complete the homework assignments.

Homework assignments should be meaningful and useful to students. Assignments should relate and apply new learning to previously acquired knowledge. Assignments may involve review, reading, or research, as long as the work is based on previous learning. In addition to paper and pencil assignments, non-written activities such as interviews, reading, vocabulary development, projects, drawing of neighborhood maps, data collection, scale drawing of a house or room, and measurement activities, etc. are appropriate homework activities.

Assigned homework should be predicated on a student's needs, interest, and ability. Therefore, students within a class may have homework assignments that are differentiated by topic, type, or quantity.

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Homework (continued)

The study skills that are taught within the school day should be included in homework. Such activities include but are not limited to library research, summarizing, sequencing, and outlining. The skills necessary for doing homework need to be taught in school. These include recording the assignment before leaving the classroom and noting the format in which the work or project is to be submitted. Students should leave the classroom at the end of the day understanding the assignment and the skills necessary to complete it.

Students should experience homework assignments with both short-range immediate objectives as well as long-term goals. Short-term assignments are usually due the following morning.

For long-term projects the steps students have to follow need to be spelled out very carefully for them, preferably in writing. The teacher should check progress periodically to assure that work is being completed and that it is completed correctly. Teachers should coordinate major assignments as much as possible to avoid having assignments in different subject areas due all at once.

The completion and submission of homework should be appropriately monitored and the work evaluated by the teacher within a reasonable amount of time. Discretion should be used in scheduling assignments to be completed during vacation time. Report card grades are contingent on the successful completion of homework assignments.

Homework is the student's responsibility. Parents sometimes may give momentary advice to help their child understand a process. Parents should assure that a time, place, and an appropriate atmosphere are provided for the completion of homework.

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