

Homework

The Board of Education believes that homework is any activity assigned which is primarily accomplished outside of regular classroom time to advance student learning of the standards in each curricular area and that has a definite relationship to the student's instructional program, and that supports and enriches class work. Homework is an integral part of the educational program of the students in the Fremont Unified School District and should be assigned on a regular basis. Parent-supported homework should help students become self-directed self-disciplined and independent learners, thus improving their immediate learning as well as their long-term academic achievement. The Board believes in the development of the whole child and the importance of extra curricular activities, play, and socialization.

Homework prepares students for new material, reinforces academic learning, and expands upon classroom instruction. It creates new understanding, building a sense of responsibility in students for their own education, and informs/involves parents and guardians.

Homework assignments should be appropriate to the developmental levels of students and relevant to classroom instruction as enrichment, reinforcement, and extension of learning opportunities, not a displacement of or substitute for classroom instruction. Homework given in Honors/GATE classes should conform with the time estimates for other non-Honors/GATE classes. The intent is to have Honors/GATE students do differentiated, not more, homework. Homework will be reviewed by the teacher for correctness. The teacher will use the student data from homework assignments to inform his/her instruction.

The Board recognizes that cooperation between parents and the school is necessary for effective home study. Homework provides significant opportunities to enhance direct parent involvement. Parents are encouraged to take an interest in the homework activities of their children and provide conditions which are conducive to good study habits.

Each school will develop a homework plan to assure that this policy is fully and properly implemented. It will be the responsibility of each teacher to understand the school plan and participate in it. Homework plans for schools should be revised each spring and posted online and available for parents. Prior to the start of school, site administrators will disseminate, review, and discuss BP and AR 6154 as well as each site's homework plan with their staff.

The Guidelines below are for weekly assignments of homework. Homework should not be assigned on Fridays, during breaks and vacations as a regular practice. The Board's intent is to reserve weekends and vacations for family time. The total numbers of minutes stated below include all subjects and classes. Studying for exams and related subject area classroom independent reading should be included in the required nightly minutes for homework. Students with excused absences are allotted the same number of days of the absence to complete work.

Homework

Kindergarten homework will be approximately 10-15 minutes per evening, or 40-60 minutes per week.

1st and 2nd grade homework will be approximately 10-30 minutes per evening, or 40-120 minutes per week.

3rd and 4th grade homework will be approximately 30-45 minutes per evening, or 120-180 minutes per week.

5th and 6th grade homework will be approximately 45-60 minutes per evening, or 180-240 minutes per week.

7th and 8th grade homework will be approximately 60-90 minutes per evening or 240-360 minutes per week.

9th through 12th grade homework is based on the rigor of the student's course schedule. Average homework time is between 70 to 120 minutes per evening, or 280-480 minutes per week.

These minutes are based on time estimated for an average student working at an average pace. Considerations are made for students with special needs. AP classes may require additional minutes of homework.

The Board supports the development of life-long readers. In accordance with State content standards, the following are recommended guidelines in addition to their regular school reading:

By grade 4, read one-half million words annually, roughly 20-30 minutes per night.

By grade 8, read one million words annually, roughly 20-30 minutes per night.

By grade 12, read two million words annually, roughly 20-30 minutes per night.

Policy Adopted: February 22, 1984

Policy Revised: June 12, 2002

Policy Revised: April 14, 2010

Homework

School Homework Plan:

By June of each year, site principals, in cooperation with their staff, students and parents, shall develop a homework plan for the school following the guidelines below:

- 1) The total time required for the average students shall fall within the district-adopted standards.
- 2) Homework should be reasonable, appropriate, and relevant. All instructors should be cognizant of homework being assigned in other classes.
- 3) Homework should be reviewed, corrected, and feedback needs to be given to students in a timely manner.
- 4) Each plan shall include:
 - a) The approximate amount of time needed for students to complete homework, while also accounting for key student time demands and desires, e.g., family activities, etc.
 - b) A test schedule which spreads study time evenly across the week.
 - c) Provisions for differentiation for all special programs.
 - d) Process by which the homework will be reviewed, corrected and returned to the student.
 - e) Provisions for make-up homework due to student absence.
- 5) A systematic and structured mechanism by which the plan is monitored, including gathering feedback from parents, staff, and students. Results shall be communicated to the community and staff. The results will also be discussed at School Site Council (SSC) and the minutes of the School Site Council will be reported to Instructional Services annually.
- 6) The school homework plan will be re-evaluated annually, and a copy of the current school homework plan shall be distributed to students and parents through the school site newsletter, handbook and website.

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School Homework Plan:

- 7) Each site shall develop guidelines on assigning homework during special occasions such as Back to School Night, Open House, and State testing.
- 8) Each teacher shall communicate the homework plan for his/her classes to parents and students through class newsletters, syllabus and on the classroom web page. Teachers shall ask parents/guardians to be supportive of the homework plan to strengthen the educational link between home and school.

Classroom Homework Plan

1. Each teacher shall develop a homework plan for his/her classes based on the school plan, Board Policy 6154, and Administrative Regulations and submit the plan to the principal each September.
2. Each teacher shall communicate the homework plan for his/her classes to parents and students. Teachers shall ask parents/guardians to be involved in overseeing the homework plan to strengthen the educational link between home and school. Accommodations for special circumstances should be developed.
3. Homework should be reviewed, corrected, and feedback must be given to students in a timely manner.
4. The Classroom Homework Plan should be based on the following guidelines:
 - a) Homework assignments will be planned so that a variety of study skills are practiced. Different types of assignments will be given, and students may be provided with the opportunity to choose from a variety of homework options, depending on the students' needs and readiness. Some homework assignments may be due immediately, while others may be short and/or long range, in order to provide students the opportunity to plan and budget their time.
 - b) Homework tasks should relate to current grade/class level appropriate instructional objectives, be clear, relevant and reflective of actual district curriculum, and in line with state standards. To ensure proper understanding of the assignment, homework assignments should be explained and may be started during class and completed outside the classroom.

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Classroom Homework Plan

- c) Homework assignments will be monitored, and may be formally and explicitly a part of each student's grades. All aspects of homework are considered important, including completion, quality, accuracy, and effort.
- d) Students with excused absence are allotted the same number of days of the absence to complete work.
- e) Homework shall not be given as punishment.
- f) Students assigned to complete homework tasks in study group settings must have clear guidelines for distribution of team responsibilities. Students should not be penalized for group members not completing assigned tasks. One hundred percent of the student's grade should not be dependent on the group grade.
- g) Individual or group long term projects shall not be exclusively assigned over breaks or due the week immediately following a break.
- h) The homework plan should include the procedures and general timelines by which the homework will be reviewed, corrected and returned to students.

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