

Rescinds Policy Number: IHB

Issued: 6/18/01, 12/6/2004

Homework is a part of the total instructional experience. It is a continuation or extension of the classroom and is intended to enrich and extend student initiative.

Purposes for Homework:

- To reinforce learning by providing practice and application of skills or completion of familiar, unfinished work
- To develop responsibility and independent study habits through learning to use and manage time
- To utilize out-of-school resources for learning, giving students the opportunity to explore, create and broaden interests without classroom limits
- To incorporate parents or significant others into the students’ school experiences through related home activities

General Guidelines for Homework:

Homework must be suited to the needs and abilities of the individual child with consideration to the availability of materials needed to complete the assignment. The teacher should assure that homework assignments will not require the use of books or materials which are not available in the home or accessible to the student.

Research provides strong evidence that, when used appropriately, homework benefits student achievement. To make sure that homework is appropriate, teachers should follow these guidelines:

- Assign purposeful homework. Legitimate purposes for homework include introducing new content, practicing a skill or process that students can do independently but not fluently, elaborating on information that has been addressed in class to deepen students’ knowledge, and providing opportunities for students to explore topics of their own interest.
- Design homework to maximize the chances that students will complete it. Ensure that homework is at the appropriate level of difficulty. Students should be able to complete homework assignments independently with relatively high success rates, but they should still find the assignments challenging enough to be interesting.
- Carefully monitor the amount of homework assigned so that it is developmentally appropriate and does not take too much time away from other home activities.

Care should be taken to avoid unnecessary weekend and holiday assignments that may conflict with family time. Providing a weekly homework schedule can help students complete assignments as their time allows.

The research-based guidelines for minutes of homework per day are:

Grades K-2	20 minutes	Grades 6-8	90 minutes per day
Grades 3-5	50 minutes	Grades 9-12	120 minutes per day

The principals of each school shall have on file the homework plan for their school. In accordance with policy #3135, the principal shall be responsible for communicating the plan to staff, students and parents.