

LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY

HOMework POLICY

Date Approved by
School Committee:

9/89

Signature of Chair:

On File

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I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Homework is an important extension of activities begun in school by students under the guidance of their teachers and continued at home. Working together, home and school can guide students as they develop their learning capacities by making possible experiences which foster learning.

Homework provides for practice of skills and application of principles based upon work begun in the classroom. It may enrich school experiences and promote a permanent interest in learning. A secondary goal of homework is to stimulate individual initiative, personal responsibility and self-direction.

Due to differences in age levels and modes of instruction between the elementary and secondary schools, homework expectations will necessarily differ.

II. APPLICATION

Listed below are the responsibilities of teachers, students and parents with regard to homework.

Teachers:

- Assign homework that is meaningful and useful to individuals.
- Provide appropriate and timely response to all homework assignments.
- Provide a balance between long-range and short-term assignments.
- Give assignments over weekends, that are no longer than a daily assignment.
- Refrain from assigning homework during vacation periods and on legal and religious holidays.
- Monitor long-term assignments in order to avoid last minute student efforts.
- Give clear, concise directions; allow time for student questions; consider availability of materials; provide legible worksheets when used.
- Inform parents of their role in supervising homework.
- Ensure that students who are absent know how they may makeup homework.
- Monitor the effectiveness of homework as reflected in student performance.
- Record the directions for homework.
- Ask questions when necessary to clarify the assignment.

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Students will:

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- Follow a schedule and keep materials in order.
- Hand in, on time, neat, accurate, and meaningful products.
- Plan time for completion of long-term assignments.
- Determine and complete homework assigned during absence.

Parents will:

- Provide a suitable place for study.
- Help students develop routine home study habits.
- Ensure that absence does not interfere with makeup.
- Assist and correct but not do the actual work and notify the teacher if students experienced extreme difficulty.
- Assist students in making wise course and course level choices.
- Be aware of long-term assignments and assist students in learning to budget their time accordingly.
- Contact the teacher if he/she observes an absence of homework.

Because the time required of individuals to complete assignments varies, homework activities must, therefore, be planned to meet each student's individual learning profile. Homework guidelines for some students with special needs may be determined by the student's educational plan and should be specifically related to the student's learning profile. The modifications in an educational plan supersede the suggested guidelines listed below. Though it is impossible to predict the time necessary for all students to complete assignments because of different learning rates and age levels, the following is suggested:

At the <u>Elementary</u> level:	Grade K	-Occasionally.
	Grade 1	- Fifteen minutes each night..
	Grade 2	- Twenty minutes each night.
	Grade 3	- Thirty minutes each night.
	Grade 4	- Forty minutes each night.
	Grade 5	- Forty-five minutes each night.

In addition, parents should continue to read to their children and encourage and support their children's recreational reading.

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Homework is generally assigned two to four times a week, generally Mondays to Thursdays. No homework will be given on legal and religious holidays or during vacations.

At the Middle School level:

At the middle school certain courses, but not all, require homework at all levels. The Program of Studies, when read carefully, provides a great deal of information about course requirements. If you have questions about homework, consult with the teacher.

1 Homework will not be given on legal and religious holidays or during vacations.

2
3 Homework will include both daily or short-term assignments and long-range assignment. These are
4 suggested guidelines for the average amount of homework:

5 Grade 6 One hour each night.

6 Grade 7 One and one-half hours each night.

7 Grade 8 Two hours each night.

8
9 At the High School level:

10 In selecting their courses, students should bear in mind that homework requirements will vary from
11 course to course within departmental programs although the high school requires homework at all levels.
12 Expectations for homework are stated specifically in the Program of Studies and class expectation
13 sheets. In general, daily assignments do not exceed the equivalent of a class period. Homework will
14 not be given on legal or religious holidays and during vacations with the exception of summer reading
15 lists.

16
17 If students have questions regarding the nature or extent of the homework, they should consult with the
18 teacher.

19
20 Although each child's learning needs may differ, generally each course assignment should be equal to
21 the amount of class time scheduled for the course each week. For example, a course that meets twice
22 per week in 50-minute classes should include the requirement of approximately 1 1/2 hours of
23 homework per week.

24
25 The course expectation sheets may be relied upon by the students as a true indication of course
26 expectations for homework.

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28 01/31/89

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