

HOMEWORK

The Governing Board recognizes that time spent on homework influences a student's ability to meet the district's and State's academic standards, and that homework does contribute to building responsibility and self-discipline, readiness for college/university and the workplace by developing life-long learning habits.

Homework is defined as school related and assigned work completed beyond the regular school day. The teacher, as the educational professional, directs the classroom; thus, the school and classroom setting is the primary and most effective teaching and learning environment. Homework supplements and complements the teacher's instruction.

The Governing Board recognizes that the determination of specific homework assignments and the amounts of homework appropriate for a particular student shall be made by the teacher and/or school official. The simple existence of this policy does not require that homework be assigned.

Homework shall be an extension of class instruction. Key concepts should be introduced in class prior to the assignment of homework.

Homework shall reinforce classroom learning objectives and district and California State Content Standards.

Required assignments should generally be appropriate to the ages and abilities of the students in the class or for that Board-adopted curriculum/course.

Homework assignments shall concentrate on areas or subjects of demonstrated student need. Teachers may differentiate homework assignments, as appropriate.

The type of school work assigned as homework should generally be that which a typical student for that class can be reasonably expected to accomplish outside of this classroom, independent of further teacher direction or teacher instruction. However, it can be appropriate for a student to seek support from home to complete the assignments.

Communication between parents, students, and teachers concerning homework should be encouraged. Examples of communication include such things as voicemail, newsletters, web pages, email, window postings in and out of the class, and academic calendars and planners.

Instruction BP 6154 (b)

HOMEWORK (continued)

Long-Term Homework Assignments

Homework assignments that are assigned over more than ten (10) school days are considered “long-term” (for example, large individual projects; group projects; lengthy papers) and have these guidelines:

Assignments are efficiently designed to provide a proportionate learning benefit for students relative to the time required for students to complete the assignment.

Teachers shall provide clear, written directions for assignments. These directions to students should include all relevant information, such as the due date, the required length (if any), any required format specifics, any assignment guidelines, planned check points, etc. Teacher expectations should be clearly described.

Long-term assignments shall be given with a timeline that does not require a student to do all or most of the assignment during a school vacation period, recess, or holiday.

Assignments for the course/grade level are age, grade, and ability appropriate.

Long-term assignments include periodic progress checks with monitoring and feedback by the teacher.

Penalties for late completion or non-completion of work will be clearly delineated by the teacher.

Students should be able to complete the assignments with a minimum of adult assistance.

Classroom instructional time should be given at the onset of projects to assist students in understanding and starting the project satisfactorily.

The time needed to accomplish long-term assignments is separate from the total time needed for all homework assignments, short and long-term.

Amount of Homework

The amount of time needed for students to satisfactorily complete grade level homework will vary depending upon several factors, including but not limited to, the student’s age, prior academic achievement, capabilities, motivation, home support, and type of curriculum in which the student is enrolled.

Instruction BP 6154 (c)

HOMEWORK (continued)

This policy does not preclude a teacher from providing to students at one time all assignments that will be due within a given week or more. The time limits take into account differing levels of academic rigor.

Within that context and as a general guideline, the average total daily amount of short-term homework assigned to a typical student would approximate the times listed below.

Kindergarten	10 minutes (in addition to reading time)
Grade 1	10-20 minutes (in addition to reading time)
Grade 2	20-30 minutes (in addition to reading time)
Grade 3	30-40 minutes (in addition to reading time)
Grade 4	40-50 minutes (in addition to reading time)
Grade 5	50-60 minutes (in addition to reading time)
Grade 6	60-70 minutes (in addition to reading time)
Grades 7-8	1.5-2.0 hours (in addition to reading time)
Grades 9-12	2-3 hours (in addition to reading time)

These guidelines do not necessarily apply to courses designated as GATE, Honors, Advanced Placement, or IB, which include assigned summer reading.

The teacher is expected to make professional judgments regarding how much time assignments will take relative to the learning benefit expected by the teacher.

When a student has more than one teacher, teachers and staff are encouraged to coordinate the collectively assigned homework so that the total amount of homework for a student is consistent with the above guidelines. Teachers and principal/designee are expected to appropriately coordinate assigned homework with school-site or grade-level testing. Secondary teachers are encouraged to schedule due dates for projects at least a week prior to any scheduled midterm or final examinations.

Punishment Homework

Homework will not be assigned as punishment.

Instruction BP 6154 (d)

HOMEWORK (continued)

Excused Absences/Make-Up Work

A student with an excused absence from school shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence, which can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion, shall be given full credit therefore. Assignments must be made up by the student within two days of his/her return to school for the student to receive credit. For prolonged absences (three days or longer) the time for completing missed assignments shall be determined by the teacher.

Tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the test and assignments which the student missed during the absence. Long-term assignments are due on the assigned due date unless other arrangements are made with the teacher.

The following absences are excused under Education Code Section 48205. Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

Due to his or her illness.

Due to quarantine under the direction of a county/city health officer.

For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services rendered.

For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.

For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.

Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.

For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, appearance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.

Instruction BP 6154 (e)

HOMEWORK (continued)

Overall Guidance and Support

The principal/designee is expected to review and evaluate with teachers, as needed, the district's policy and procedures regarding homework and information regarding effective homework assignments and procedures.

The District's Educational Services Division shall provide as requested to principals and teachers examples of how homework throughout a school could be coordinated.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48205 Absences for personal reasons

48913 Completion of work missed by suspended pupil

Policy

adopted: May 9, 1996

revised: May 22, 2003

revised: July 17, 2008

FAIRFIELD-SUISUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fairfield, California