

HOMEWORK

The Board of Education believes that homework is an important part of the educational program for students in the Wake County Public School System and should be assigned on a regular basis. Homework assignments should be purposeful continuations or extensions of the instructional program and appropriate to the students' developmental level. Homework should help students become responsible, self-directed learners, improve their academic achievement and provide reinforcement opportunities.

5510.1

Since each student spends a major part of each weekday in class and since there are other valuable experiences to be gained outside school, homework shall be planned carefully and evaluated periodically regarding its appropriateness.

5510.2

It is assumed by the Board of Education that homework will be done by students outside of school hours. The amount of such work required of students shall increase as grade levels increase and shall be commensurate with abilities and course content.

5510.3

The staff of each school shall develop a homework plan to assure that this policy is fully and properly implemented. Each school's plan shall be submitted for approval to a member of the administrative staff designated by the superintendent. Once approved, the staff of each school shall be responsible for informing students and parents of the homework plan. Additionally, it shall be the responsibility of each teacher to understand the homework plan and participate in it.

HOMework

I. PURPOSES

Inasmuch as the term “homework” refers to school-related instruction that is to be completed outside the classroom, it should fulfill the following purposes:

1. To enrich and extend school experiences through related home activities.
2. To reinforce learning by providing practice and application.

II. ASSIGNMENTS

Each teacher shall follow the school's homework plan guidelines concerning the amount of homework assigned and the length of time required for completion. Additionally, the following procedures should be implemented to ensure homework is appropriately assigned:

- A. The teacher will introduce a concept or skill, thoroughly explain the concept or skill, and provide guided practice before making a related homework assignment.
- B. Homework assignments shall be specific, within the student’s ability and have clearly defined expectations. Questions pertaining to the completion of a homework assignment should be answered and clarified.
- C. Homework assignments are not to be given as punishment or busy work.
- D. Homework assignments will not require the use of books or materials which are not readily available in the home or accessible to the student.

III. EVALUATION

- A. Teachers shall provide specific and timely feedback on homework assignments.
- B. Homework is considered practice in grades K-5; therefore, it is reflected in the Work Habits grade. Homework should be considered in reporting a student’s progress to parents; however, in grades 6-12 homework should not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of a student’s academic grade for a marking period.
- C. To evaluate the effectiveness of a homework assignment, the following questions might be applied:

1. Does the student possess the skills needed to complete the assignment?
2. Does the assignment extend and enrich class work?
3. Does the assignment meet a real need in the student's learning experience?
4. Does the student clearly understand the purpose of the assignment?
5. Can the assignment be completed within the suggested time limits?
6. Do some assignments provide opportunities for the development of initiative, creativity, and responsibility?

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

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

V. A. Congruent with Board Policy 5510, the principals of each school will place the homework plan on file in the school and will submit it to the designated area superintendent. Board Policy 5510 and the Regulations and Procedures 5510 shall be followed in developing the homework plan.

B. Upon approval of a school's homework plan, the principal shall be responsible for communicating the plan to staff, students, and parents.

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