

HOMEWORK

The School Board recognizes the importance of assigning meaningful and quality homework that reinforces standards-based instruction in the classroom to students.

Research indicates that schools in which homework is routinely assigned and assessed tend to have higher achieving students. Homework fosters student achievement, independence, and responsibility and serves as a vital link between school and home. Therefore, it is the policy of Broward County Schools that meaningful and quality homework, which reinforces standards-based instruction be recommended.

The School Board realizes that not every home has access to a wired or wireless internet connection. This will be taken into consideration when assigning homework to students.

Authority: F.S. 230.22 (1) (2) Policy Adopted:
2/12/70;

Policy Amended: 9/5/74; Amended Policy Approved: 9/15/98 Amended Policy Approved:
2/18/09

RULES:**1. DEFINITION:**

Homework is defined as meaningful and quality work assigned to students that reinforces standards-based instruction and is intended to be completed during non-instructional hours.

2. PURPOSE: Homework should:

- a. Reinforce principles, skills, concepts, and information taught in the classroom.
- b. Be meaningful and appropriate to the ability and instructional level of students.
- c. Support creative, logical, critical and analytical thinking.
- d. Foster self-discipline, self motivation, responsibility, time management, and organizational skills.
- e. Be adequately explained by teachers and clearly communicated to students and available to parents.
- f. Assignments that require digital submission must also be *available* in an equitable paper format *when the student has the inability to utilize digital resources*. Teachers will make accommodations as necessary and clearly state what they would like to accept in the event of no internet access.
- g. Not be used as a form of punishment.

Note: Assignments that require going to the public library will include a weekend to accommodate working families.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:**Administrators shall:**

- a. Communicate SBBC policy in regards to homework and its appropriateness to parents, teacher and students.
- b. Provide teachers the time for professional development when utilizing homework as a strategy for learning.
- c. Monitor the effective use of homework given by teachers.
- d. Support and allow time for the collaboration among teachers, students, and parents in the effective implementation of the homework policy.
- e. Provide teachers with access to all essential tools.
- f. Assist teachers in providing alternative assignments to students without internet access.

Teachers shall:

- a. Set clear standards and expectations for the quality of work based on the needs of students.
- b. Create and maintain an effective system, using the District's approved learning management system (LMS), such as Canvas, Pinnacle, or other District provided resource, for communicating homework guidelines for parents and students.
- c. Review homework and provide timely and appropriate feedback regarding the completion of assignments as a step toward mastery of standards.
- d. Coordinate projects so that all students have access to research and resource materials including textbooks and digital tools such as flash drives, electronic textbooks and websites.
- e. Assign homework that is academically challenging and developmentally appropriate to the student's level of competence.
- f. Design and provide quality homework, which is relevant to the curriculum standards-based and/or tied to mastery.
- g. Allow for varied learning styles by including choices in types of assignments when possible.
- h. Provide students with a reasonable estimate of the amount of time necessary to complete each homework assignment.
- i. Provide specific written explanation, rubric or model, of long term assignments so that the requirements, expectations and timelines are clearly understood by the students.
- j. Provide students the opportunity to ask questions to clarify assignments before leaving class. Any new homework assignment assigned after class has ended must allow students two (2) class meetings before the assignment is due. This allows students class time to ask clarifying questions before the assignment is due.
- k. Evaluate group projects based upon a predefined rubric which includes individual student participation and group process and allow time in class for individuals and groups to work on projects.
- l. Refrain from assigning *required or graded* homework, projects, and packets to be completed solely over *extended* holiday, winter, or spring breaks. *An extended holiday/break will be defined as four (4) or more contiguous calendar days off in a row.*

- m. Ensure that students receive feedback on each assignment so that students comprehend their level of understanding of the learning.
- n. Create an effective mechanism or system to communicate homework assignments through a District approved platform or learning management system (i.e. Canvas), that is updated with each new assignment.
- o. Modifications for ESE and ESOL students will be addressed through the IEP or the student's PMP. Teachers should provide accommodations for students with disabilities on standards and provide modifications for students with disabilities on Access Points.

Students shall:

- a. Understand that homework is part of the course requirement.
- b. Ask questions to clarify homework assignments before leaving class.
- c. Complete and submit homework assignments by the due date.
- d. Complete all assignments honestly in accordance with the teacher's directions.

Parents shall:

- a. Provide a suitable environment for homework.
- b. Remind students that homework is their responsibility.
- c. Guide or assist in homework when unusual difficulties arise but never do the homework for their child.
- d. Encourage students to ask their teacher(s) clarifying questions concerning their homework.
- e. Communicate with the teacher(s).
- f. Monitor activities so that sufficient time is provided for homework.
- g. Prohibit cheating, plagiarism and any other dishonest practices in the completion of homework.

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